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GUJARAT STATE GAZETTEERS

Government of Gujarat

DANGS DISTRICT

Dr. G. D. PATEL

M. A., Ph. D., I. E. S. (Retd.)

Chief Editor

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GUJARAT STATE GAZETTEERS

DANGS DISTRICT

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PREFACE

In the series of the District Gazetteers published by the Government of Gujarat, this is the seventh District Gazetteer. The Dangs district is a border district covered with high hills and rich forests. In view of its backward character and Adivasi population, it had no importance apart from its forests. In the circumstances, no separate Gazetteer of the Dangs was prepared during the British regime. But some facts of each Dang have been recorded in the Selection from the Bombay Government Records No. XXVI-N.S. published in 1856. A few pages have been devoted to the Dangs in the District Gazetteer of Khandesh (1880). Stray references to the Dangs are also found in the District Gazetteer of Nasik (1883). Subsequent references to the Dangs are available in the Cambridge History of India, Vols. III & IV, Aitchison's Treaties, Vol. VIII, the Dang Case by K. R. Bomanji, etc. In view of their illiteracy and backward character, the Dangs Chiefs and Naiks have left no histories of their families. Most of the historical allusions found about the Dangs are either indirect or deduced from the history of the adjacent areas of Surat, Baroda, Khandesh and Nasik. In the circumstances, the source-material available is scanty and scattered and the treatment given to the Dangs has been casual.

Extensive search for the source material had, therefore, to be made for preparing this Gazetteer. The net had to be cast very wide, not only for collecting the material but also for cross-checking the material so obtained. Search was, therefore, made in the National Archives, Government of India, New Delhi, the Maharashtra State Archives, Bombay and the Central Record Office of Gujarat at Baroda. The Collector's records at Ahwa dating from 1820 till date were rummaged for collection of data. These apart, various reports published on the language problem of the Dangs, Selections from the Baroda State Records, Selections from the Bombay Government Records, Political Agency Records, books on history relating to Khandesh, Nasik and Gujarat were studied to collect data about the medieval and modern history of the Dangs. This became necessary because no coherent and continuous records about the history of Dangs were available. From this study, I drafted the account of the medieval and modern history and the administration of the Dangs.

The Dangs territory is a one-taluka district. It is smallest in area, least in population, most backward in social and economic development; but richest in forests. It is predominantly populated by the Adivasis, who are, by and large, illiterate and improvident. The Dangis have special customs and traditions and peculiar agricultural practices. The district is, therefore, a class by itself which would not permit of usual pattern for preparing a

District Gazetteer. Since its economy is forest-based and the man-power is entirely tribal, the main emphasis is placed on the tribal and forest development in the Gazetteer.

The district has certain special features of socio-economic and administrative character. Before Independence, for the land administration, there was neither survey nor settlement of lands and their concomitant, the land records. Cultivation of land was primitive and shifting. There was, therefore, no system of land revenue but an *ad hoc* levy called *halpatti* or plough-tax was in vogue. There was no private ownership of land, as all lands in the district vested in Government presumably because they were forest areas. Naturally, therefore, there was no need to maintain land records as in other districts. The land reforms were out of question.

Secondly, the district suffered (suffers) from the paradox of scarcity of water in the midst of plenty of annual rainfall (100"). The land has practically no sub-soil water. There are no rivers of a perennial or navigable character with the result that no dams could be constructed on them for irrigation.

Thirdly, there are no urban areas in the district. The entire area is rural. This fact, *inter alia*, conditions its economic growth.

Fourthly, there are no *pucca* houses built by private persons because of the Government embargo. Whatever *pucca* houses one sees in the district belong to the Government.

Fifthly, no non-Dangi can settle or cultivate lands without permission in the district. This ban has prevented outsiders from settling down and influencing the Dangis in their daily life. Since agriculture is still carried on without the modern tools and techniques, the new farm strategy has not made much impact.

Sixthly, barring one saw-mill at Waghai, there are no industries worth the name, Commercial banking institutions have not been attracted to establish their branches here. The credit so far is mainly supplied either by Government, money-lenders or a few co-operatives.

Seventhly, there was practically no literate person among the Dangis before the Christian Mission started its school at Ahwa in 1905. But it did not make much headway and broadly speaking, illiteracy stalked the land.

Eighthly, although there were Rajas and Naiks recognised by the British, they were in effect political cyphers due to their ignorance, illiteracy, poverty and incapacity to manage their affairs.

Ninthly, there was no full-fledged administration in the Dangs. The Forest Department ruled supreme. The Dangs Diwan was the local semi-political *factotum* who wielded enormous powers under the British Government. The administration was personal and not regulated by any rules and regulations.

Lastly, there were no roads and other means of communications. Whatever roads were there were constructed by the Forest Department for facility of transporting timber outside the Dangs territory. It was a problem to reach Ahwa in those days, as the Gaikwad Railway was upto Waghai. The bullock cart was the main means of transport. The Dangis had, therefore, very few contanct with the outside world. To all intents and purposes, they lived in social, economic and geographical isolation.

After the merger in 1948, the winds of change began to blow over the Dangs. To begin with, the Dangs were consituted into a separate district and a separate Collector was appointed. A separate Dangs Reserve Fund from the forest revenue was earmarked for the development of the Dangs. The administration proliferated and departments such as Revenue, Public Works, Education, Agriculture, Medical and Public Health, Co-operative, Social Welfare, etc., came to be established. Thus ended the personal rule of the Dangs Diwan.

The lands have now been surveyed and the requisite land records have been introduced. Government took a bold historic decision to confer occupancy rights free of charge on the Dangis in respect of the lands under their cultivation on January 1, 1970. Thus the policy of 'Land to the Tiller' is in the process of implementation.

Primary schools have been set up so as to cover practically all villages in the district, Ashramshalas have been established and run by Government. One technical training school and two high schools have been established. The Dangis' attitude towards education is gradually undergoing change.

Although the people are under-fed and suffer from malnutrition, they are sturdy and irrepressible, as seen from several skirmishes with the British. They love the freedom of the forest. The Dangs Chiefs and Naiks, who are generally illiterate and indebted, have retained certain traits of a ruling tribe. They are, therefore, distinguishable from the Bhils of other districts of Gujarat. Paradoxically, they are socially higher but economically depressed. The Community Development Programme and the Five Year Plans are gradually bringing about changes in the level of their living.

Although railway facilities are meagre in the district, a net-work of roads connects almost all villages with Ahwa, the district headquarters

and important towns and villages in the surrounding districts of Surat, Bulsar, Khandesh and Nasik. The State Transport buses regularly ply on these roads and serve important villages. Trucks and jeeps can now even go to the far-flung villages. Formerly, the people had contacts with the personnel of the Forest Department only. But now they have contacts with civil servants of all departments particularly with the Block staff. Thus, their geographical isolation has been broken and they are exposed to the influences from outside.

Electricity has been provided to Ahwa, Waghai and other important villages. Scheme for conservation of water by check dams is under active consideration of Government.

The district can boast of the richest forests in Gujarat. Its teak-wood has been used for the Naval Yard at Bombay for over a hundred years and is much in demand for building purposes also. Its bamboos feed the Central Paper Pulp Mills at Fort Songadh, which has made a great impact on the economy of the villages having bamboo plantations. The Dangis get employment in felling trees and transporting timber and bamboos. Educated Dangis are employed in Government service.

Thus, an infra-structure for socio-economic development of the Dangs is being built up.

The impact of development programmes under the Five Year Plans is felt in the entire life of the Dangis. With education, the traditional values and attitudes of the Dangis are gradually being modernised. With the improvement in economic condition, the customs and habits regarding dress and food of the Dangi men and women have undergone perceptible changes. Construction of roads and S. T. bus service have helped increase their movements. The avenues of employment in forest operations in the district and other avocations outside are now available. The four General Elections since 1952 have led to the growth of political awareness among the Dangis. They are anxious to enjoy the fruits of socio-economic development.

For the integrated development of the district, the State Government has adopted special measures in addition to the general development schemes under the Five Year Plans. To begin with, although the Panchayati Raj has been introduced since 1963 in the State, this district has been placed directly under the State for accelerating development. The District Development Board, which is constituted with Collector as chairman, is responsible for co-ordinating the development activities of all the Departments in the district. Further, a separate Housing Board has been established for assisting construction of houses for the Dangis. To crown all, a high-powered body called the Dangs Development Council has been constituted under the

chairmanship of the Chief Minister for ensuring integrated development of the district. The District Collector serves as its executive authority. It is not advisory in character, but is invested with special executive powers. On its recommendations, provision has been made for drinking water supply, primary school buildings, roads, the Saputara hill station and forest development. Unlike other districts, Ashram Schools are run by Government in the district. Lastly, the Dangs Reserve Fund has been constituted out of the surplus forest revenue of the district. In order that no scheme may suffer from lack of funds, provision is made to advance loans from this fund to be adjusted later in the next year's budget. Separate budget head "33-A-Dangs" is maintained to watch the progress of expenditure. Thus, it will be clear that the district, which was practically a closed book before Independence, has been exposed to all winds of change and is passing through a transitional stage from traditionalism to modernity. The Dangis have shown desire for development and have undergone transformation in their otherwise static and placid life.

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Ahmedabad-6.
3rd April, 1971
Ramnavmi

G. D. PATEL,
Chief Editor.

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3rd April, 1971 — G. D. PATEL,
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PART I

CHAPTER I

GENERAL

ORIGIN OF THE NAME OF THE DISTRICT

The origin of the name of the Dangs is obscure. In common parlance, the word Dang means a hilly village as opposed to *desh,* the plain area, There is another connotation of the word Dang which means bamboo—a place of bamboos. The name is also associated with mythology. It is related to the Dandakaranya of the Ramayana. It is said that during the exile, Rama passed through this area *en route* to Nasik which is not very far. This version gets some confirmation from the fact that the Dangis understand the story of the Ramayana very well and their folk-songs are replete with the incidents of that epic. Further, the several places are associated with Rama and Sita in one way or the other. For example, at a distance of about 19·31 kms. to the east of Ahwa, there is a village called Pandva, where there are caves which, it is said, were once occupied by the Pandvas. Similarly, at a distance of 32·19 kms. to 40·23 kms. in the north-east direction of Ahwa and near Garkhadi, there is a forest area which is called 'Sitavan'. The Adivasi males and females also have Rama, Sita and Laxman as their names. In these circumstances, it is difficult to indicate the exact derivation of the name Dangs. But the odds are that the hilly terrain and the luxuriant bamboo or forest growth all over, might have given the territory the name of Dangs.

Location—Dangs district is situated between the parallels of latitude 20° 33′ 40″ and 21° 5′ 10″ and the meridians of longitude 73° 27′ 58″ and 73° 56′ 36″. The extreme length from north to south of this territory is about 59 kilometres (36·7 miles) and from east to west about 50 kilometres (31 miles). The tract is bounded on :

North : Vyara and Songadh talukas of the Surat district and the Navapur taluka of the Dhulia district.

East : The Sakari taluka of the Dhulia district and the Baglan and the Kalwan talukas of the Nasik district.

South : The Kalwan taluka and the Surgana mahal of the Nasik district.

West : The Bansda taluka of the Bulsar district and the Vyara taluka of the Surat district.

Area and Population—The total area of the district as on 1st January, 1966 was 1,778 sq. kms.[1] The population of the district according to 1961 Census was 71,567 of whom 37,418 were males and 34,149 were females. According to the definition of urban area given in the 1961 Census no place qualified to be treated as urban area in the district. The entire population is rural and is living in 312 inhabited villages. At present, there are 311 villages, as the Khokharvihir village is amalgamated with the adjacent village Harpada in 1964.

The History of District as an Administrative Unit

The administrative history of the Dangs territory may be broadly divided into the following periods according to the stages of different administrations it passed through :

(1) the obscure period (pre-1818 A. D.)

(2) the period of pacification (from 1818 to 1902 A. D.)

(3) the direct control of the Forest Department (from 1903 to 1933 A. D.)

(4) the political control of the Government of India (from 1933 to 1943 A. D.)

(5) the civil administration by the Government of India (from November 1943 to August, 1947 A. D.)

(6) the merger of Dangs in the Bombay State (from 15th August, 1947 to April, 1960 A. D.) and

(7) administration under the separate State of Gujarat (May, 1960 A. D. till date)

(1) *The Obscure Period (Pre-1818)*—The ancient administrative history of the Dangs territory is shrouded in mystery. The territory is related to the mythological Dandakaranya of the Ramayana period. In support of this view, it is pointed out that Rama during his Vanvas of 14 years passed through this territory on his way to Nasik. Secondly, some villages like

1. (a) Deputy Director, Cabinet Secretariat, Department of Statistics, Government of India, New Delhi.

(b) According to 1971 Census the provisional population of the district was 94,241 of whom 48,423 were males and 45,818 were females. Moreover, according to the definition of urban area adopted during the 1971 Census, no place qualified to be treated as urban area in the district.

Source : Central Tabulation Officer, Office of the Registrar General, India, (Central Tabulation Unit), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, New Delhi.

Pandva and Subir bear affinity to the names mentioned in the Ramayana. Thirdly, the Dangis understand the events mentioned in the Ramayana very easily and naturally. Their folk-songs are replete with the events of the Ramayana. But they are quite ignorant of the events and the personalities mentioned in the Mahabharata.

The area comprising the district of Dangs was formerly covered by small principalities presided over by 4 Rajas and 10 Naiks. The Dangs Chieftains or Bhil Rajas and Naiks claimed a strain of Rajput blood. These Chiefs were independent. Among these Rajas and Naiks, the Bhil Raja of Ghadvi was considered the senior most. He exercised jurisdiction over about 80 villages. Under the feudal system in existence at that time, the real authority was delegated to Chiefs who were inferior in status and known as Naiks. After the acquisition of Khandesh in 1818, the British came into contact with the Dangi Rajas.

We have very little historical data about the administrative history of the Dangs. Whatever authentic information one is able to gather is from the early period of the eighteenth century. When the Gaekwad made Fort Songadh as his capital in 1721 in the north of the Dangs territory, the Gaekwad came to establish some fluid political and administrative jurisdiction over the Dangs Chiefs and Naiks by advancing loans to them or by collection of certain shares from the revenues of the villages adjacent to the Gaekwad territory round about Songadh. The Bhil Chiefs maintained themselves by raids and exacting blackmail from the rulers of the adjacent territories. In such incursions and depredations, their intention was not to conquer any territory which they could have easily done in those days of anarchy and misrule following the disintegration of the Mughal rule and the defeat of the Peshwas. They were, however, content to stay in their forest fastnesses.

(2) *The Period of Pacification (1818-1902)*—The Bhil Rajas of the Dangs were at war with all the surrounding territories and were quite independent. In order to prevent raids, the British maintained a military cordon around the Dangs. But Dangs Chiefs always resisted tooth and nail interference from outsiders. This was evident from the slaughter of the Gaekwad army in 1825 and subsequent resistance to the Bhil Corps of Khandesh organised by the British. This obscure period to some extent ended when the British got forest leases from the Dangs Chiefs in 1842.

The conquest of the Dangs was not primarily by force but by the outstanding personality of Sir James Outram, who visited the area as a young man and won the confidence of inhabitants, raised a Bhil Corps which in 1827 numbered 600, rank and file, and suppressed plundering. Secondly, thereafter when raids had been stopped, the forests were leased by the Chiefs to

Government in 1842 and the area went largely on its own except for forestry, under the loose control of the Collector and and Political Agent, Khandesh.

It may be observed that till 1842, British Government did not interfere in the administration of the district and Bhil Rajas and Naiks reigned supreme in the Dangs. After the lease of forests in 1842, the Dangs district was placed under the administrative jurisdiction of the Collector and Political Agent, Khandesh. Under the garb of forest leases and by the acquiescence of the Chiefs, the British Government obtained administrative jurisdiction over the Dangs.

The Bhil Rajas of the Dangs conceded to the British the right of exploitation of forests but retained certain judicial powers. In 1862 these forest leases were renewed giving British Government exclusive right in perpetuity at a fixed rent. The Gaekwad claimed certain rights in the co-shared villages, viz., (1) Land revenue, (2) Abkari, (3) Transit duties, (4) Forest revenue and (5) Revenue and police jurisdiction. In order to inquire into these claims, the Bombay Government appointed two Commissions in 1867 and 1872. On the recommendations of the Commissions, the Government of India decided that the Gaekwad had neither forest rights nor territorial possessions in the Dangs territory. The decision of Government of India finally settled the question that Gaekwad had no administrative authority over the Dangs.

(3) *The Direct Control of the Forest Department (1903-33)*—This arrangement continued till 1902, when as a matter of convenience, the administration of the Dangs was transferred from the Collector and Political Agent, Khandesh to the Collector and Political Agent, Surat, under G.R.R.D. No. 8657 dated the 8th December, 1902. As there was wanton destruction of the forest wealth by the Dangis, the Bombay Government appointed in 1902 the Divisional Forest Officer as *ex-officio* Assistant Political Agent in the Dangs with powers of a First Class Magistrate. The Dangs Diwan was invested with the powers of the Second Class Magistrate under the Assistant Political Agent (Divisional Forest Officer, Dangs) and was empowered to try civil suits upto Rs. 50. The result of this arrangement was that the effective administration of the Dangs territory passed on to the Forest Department in 1903.

On account of backwardness in education of the Dangs Chiefs, the jurisdictional powers had for many years been exercised on their behalf by the Political Agents. The Chiefs retained certain revenue rights over their territories and certain customary rights of settling tribal disputes.

In 1925, a proposal was made for re-transfer of the headquarters of the Divisional Forest Officer from Surat to Nasik but it was negatived by

the Government of Bombay on the following considerations. "Transfer of Surat, 22 years ago (1902) was made on good grounds. The Dangis talk a patois, which is as much as Gujarati as Marathi and are not the same people as the Bhils of Khandesh. It matters nothing to them whether the nominal control is from above the ghats or from the coast and they never visit the seat thereof except under the compulsions of the criminal law."

This arrangement continued until transfer of the political relations with the Gujarat States from the Government of Bombay to the Government of India (the Crown Representative) in 1933, when the political charge of the area was vested in the Secretary to the Agent to the Governor General, Gujarat States and Resident at Baroda, who worked as *ex-officio* Political Agent, Rewakantha, Surgana and the Dangs.

(4) *Political Control of Government of India (1933-43)*—With effect from 4th November, 1933, the charge of Dangs was transferred from the Political Agent, Dangs to the newly created Gujarat States Agency, whose headquarters was at Bulsar in the former Surat district about 50 miles from the Dangs. In 1943, His Excellency the Crown Representative separated the Civil Departments other than forest and placed them under the control of the Civil Administrator (in a Deputy Collector's Grade) responsible to the Political Agent. The whole Dangs area came to be administered as an Administered Area under the Crown Representative and most of the laws enforced in the British India were applied by notification under the Foreign Jurisdiction (India) Order in Council.

(5) *Civil Administration by Government of India (from November 1943 to 14th August, 1947)*—In November 1943, the Divisional Forest Officer was relieved of his responsibilities on the administrative side to allow him to confine his attention to the increasing complicated problems of the forest work. Thus ended the direct control of the Forest Department over the general administration of the Dangs State. The Civil Administrator was placed in charge of all departments of the administration except police, forest and public works, under the direct control of the Political Agent, who was himself subordinate to the Hon'ble Resident at Baroda and for the States of the Western India Agency and Gujarat.

The officials in the Dangs were the employees of the Dangs administration and paid from its revenue. Their services were governed by the Fundamental and Supplementary Rules of the Government of India and were pensionable. Security of tenure was ensured by the existence of the Classification Rules based on those issued by the Government of India. A few officials were borrowed on foreign service from the Government of Bombay and the Central Provinces and from Baroda, Western India and Gujarat States Residency. The police formed a part of the Baroda, Western India

and Gujarat States Police force and were administered through a Deputy Superintendent of Police at Baroda by the Deputy Inspector of Police and Police Assistant to the Hon'ble the Resident at Rajkot.

There was no system of popular representation but the Chiefs and Patels of villages met the Political Agent or in his absence, the Civil Administrator in Dangs in the Darbar held three or four times a year. These periodical gatherings of Darbar supplemented by informal contacts enabled the administration to keep in touch with the needs of the people, who were extremely law-abiding and co-operative though shy and unassertive.

Before Independence, the Dangs States were the special responsibility of His Excellency the Crown Representative. But after Independence, they were placed under the jurisdiction of the Resident at Baroda for the States of Western India and Gujarat for associating of the Dangs Chiefs and Naiks with the administration of the Dangs. Under the Resident's regime, two Councils called the Dangs Executive Council and the Dangs Chiefs Advisory Council were formed for the joint administration of the Dangs States.

The Executive Council was created under the Dangs Executive Council Act as notified by the Resident on 16th July, 1947 and brought into force from that date. The Executive Council consisted of a President, who was to be the Diwan and two other members. Two other members Col. A. Y. Dabholkar, Chief Medical Officer, Dangs and Mr. H. C. Holmes, Chief Forest Officer, Dangs were appointed as members. The business of the Executive Council was conducted according to the Dangs Executive Council Rules notified on 16th July, 1947. This Council was to be responsible for the administration of the 14 States in the Dangs in association with the Gujarat States Organisation.

The Dangs Chiefs' Advisory Council Act was notified by the Resident at Baroda, Western India and Gujarat States Agencies under Notification No. C/127-47 (II) dated 16th July, 1947 and was brought into force from that day. Since the Political Department of the Central Government transferred the administration of the Dangs to the Dangs Advisory Council. The Advisory Council was empowered to exercise all the dynastic powers except those which were delegated to the Dangs Executive Council. The Council consisted of the Raja of Amala, the Raja of Deherbhavti and the Naik of Chinchli Gaded. It was to be the legal guardian of the Dangs rulers.

As the Dangs States were treated as foreign territory and not a part of the British territory, it was governed under the provisions of the Foreign Jurisdiction Act. Thus, during the time of British rule, permission had to be

obtained from the British Government to enter the territory of Dangs district. However, the British Government was empowered under that Act to apply all Acts, laws and rules in force in the British India.

(6) *Merger of the Dangs in the Bombay State (August 1947 to April 1960)*—From the history of the Dangs, it will appear that the Dangs were never conquered or annexed by the British nor were they ceded to them (British) and that they continued to be a foreign territory subject to the rights of the Government as a lessee. The administration of the Dangs States was run under the Foreign Jurisdiction Act. This position continued till their merger in the Indian territory as a part of the Bombay State (then Province) under the provisions of the Bombay (Enlargement of Areas and Alteration of Boundaries) Order, 1947. No merger agreement was taken from the Chiefs on the ground that they were too illiterate and were not able to understand the implications of any agreement signed by them. Their consent to the merger was presumed by the Bombay Government.

When Government of India took a decision to merge Dangs in the Indian territory and to form it a part of the Bombay Province, the Chiefs gathered together at the Dangs Kutchery at Ahwa on July 25, 1947 to protest against the decision to merge the Dangs in the Bombay Province.

The following two resolutions were passed in the meeting :

(1) " The Chiefs unanimously expressed their desire to continue Dangs as a Group of States in the Gujarat States Group and Western India States Federation. They wished to lodge their strong protest against their States being merged in the Province of Bombay.

(2) The Chiefs unanimously and in unequivocal terms expressed a desire to join the Gujarat States Group of States and the confederation of the Western India States, and asserted their right for self determination within the Union of India. "

The Chiefs sent a telegram to the Government of India against handing over the administration of Dangs to the Government of Bombay and requesting to allow them (Chiefs) to remain as sovereign rulers and to join the Gujarat States Confederation which was proposed to be formed by the rulers of Gujarat on the lapse of the paramountcy of the British Government in India on the 15th August, 1947. There is no record to show the decision taken by the Government of India on this representation.

Under section 4 of the Extra-Provincial Jurisdiction Act, 1947 (Act XLVII of 1947), a provision was made for exercising certain extra-provincial jurisdiction of the Central Government. The Central Government was empowered to assign certain area to the adjoining provinces. Under

the Government of India's Notification No. 127-P dated the 19th January, 1948, the Bombay (Enlargement of Area and Alteration of Boundaries) Order, 1947 was issued by the Governor General in the Ministry of States. Under article 2 (b) of the Order, an area known as Dangs was included in the territories of the Dominion of India. Under article 3 of the said Order, the area of Dangs was made a part of the Bombay Province. Further, under article 5 of the said Order, the area of Dangs was formed into a separate district of the Bombay Province. The said article also empowered the Governor to extend the application of any laws to this area.

Under Government Revenue Department's Notification No. 6775/45 (a) dated the 10th July, 1948, all enactments, notifications, rules and bye-laws under such enactments which were in force in the Province of Bombay were extended and ordered to be enforced in the district of Dangs. Under Government Revenue Department's Notification No. 6775/45 (f) dated the 10th July, 1948, the Provincial Government made an order that the Administrator should be deemed to have been appointed for the district with effect from 19th January, 1948 and the said officer shall be subject to the general supervision and control of the Provincial Government and shall have charge of the executive administration of the district.

Subsequently, under Government Resolution Revenue Department No. 6775/45 dated the 10th July, 1948, the names of the villages to be included in the district were notified and posts of a separate Collector and other administrative staff were sanctioned. Accordingly, the whole of the Dangs district was ordered to consist of one taluka only, namely, the Dangs taluka with headquarters at Ahwa.

Government also ordered that the district of Dangs should be administered in the same way as any other district of the Bombay Province and that all the Heads of Departments should exercise the same powers and jurisdiction in the Dangs as they do in other districts. The Collector was required to co-ordinate the activities of the various departments in the district (Vide Government Resolution R. D. No. P. 435, dated the 3rd March, 1949).

Three villages, namely, Harpada, Thorpada and Khokharvihir originally formed part of the former Baroda State and after merger were included in the Surat district. On formation of the Dangs district, these villages were included in the Dangs district in 1950 (Government Notification No. 6342/49, dated 7th October, 1950). The total number of villages in the district was then 313 with 25 sejas and 4 circles.

The question of rights and privileges of the Chiefs and Naiks was decided in 1954 and the Chiefs and Naiks of Dangs ceased to be 'rulers' and became political pensioners under the new dispensation.

In 1957, as a measure of economy, the post of the Chitnis to the Collector was combined[1] with that of the Mamlatdar and the staff in the Collector and Mamlatdar offices was suitably retrenched.

(7) *Administration Under the Separate State of Gujarat (May 1960 onwards)*—On bifurcation of the Bombay State on May 1, 1960, the Dangs district was included in the State of Gujarat. The district continued to be administered by a separate Collector till the bifurcation of the Surat district into Surat and Bulsar with effect from 1st June, 1964, when a separate post of the Collector of Dangs was abolished and the Dangs district was placed under the jurisdiction of the Collector of Bulsar who was also designated as Collector of Dangs. To attend to the day-to-day administration, a post of Resident Deputy Collector at Ahwa was created. This arrangement continued till April, 1970, when the post of the Collector for Dangs was created with a view to accelerating development of the Dangs district in an integrated manner. As Collector, he will exercise all the financial powers that have been delegated to other Collectors. Other administrative and executive powers delegated to Collectors will also be available to him. Powers in relation to Dangs district which are at present enjoyed by the Collector, Bulsar by virtue of the being the Collector of Dangs will also now be exercised by the Collector of the Dangs district. However, having regard to the backwardness of the Dangs, which is mainly populated by the Adivasis, Government has considered it necessary to delegate more powers to the Collector of Dangs in order to enable him to promote and effectively implement development programmes. Government has, therefore, directed that additional budgetary and other powers should be delegated to the Collector of Dangs district. (Vide G. R. G. A. D. No. DGC-1070-J, dated 3rd March, 1970).

PHYSICAL FEATURES

Configuration

The district which starts from the rugged mountain chains of the Sahyadri in the east and descends on the western side extending to the edge of plains of the Gujarat State, is essentially a forest region. The whole of the tract is hilly. However, except for a few high hills in the east and south, it is a mass of flat topped low hills. There is no main ridge in the area which can be called as a controlling physical feature of its configuration. Beginning on the east with a chain of rugged mountains running upto about 1,100 metres (3,500 ft.) the spurs of the Sahyadri mountain descend to the edge of the Gujarat plains on the west by a series of plateaux and

1. Government Memorandum No. BST-RD-3357/15010/F, dated 15th September, 1957.

slopes to the lowest level of 105 metres (350 ft.) near Bheskatri. Dangs forms the outer edge of the Sahyadris and by far, most of its area has rugged hilly terrain. The tract varies in elevation from 105 metres (350 ft.) near Bheskatri to 1,317 metres (4,321 ft.) above mean sea level on the creast of *Gaolan hill on the* Khandesh border in the Pipalaidevi range. On the whole, (barring the few high hills and low depressions) most of the area in Dangs lies between elevations of 300 to 700 metres above mean sea level. Patches of plain ground of small size are interspersed with hilly terrain making this tract a very undulating rolling country. The area is distinctly divided into 4 main valleys of the Gira, the Purna, the Khapri and the Ambika rivers. The slopes to these valleys are very extensive towards the western side and contain compact forest areas with luxuriant vegetation. The tributaries of these rivers cut deeply into intervening country north and south and form an irregular series of ravines and parallel ridges, the latter sometimes sharp and steep, often forming extensive plateaux. General nature of the country is mountainous and difficult.

Owing to the hilly nature of the country, the altitude varies considerably within the limits of the same compartment. In some compartments the difference in elevation is as much as 700 metres as in the compartment No. 83 near Chichdara in Pipalaidevi range, while in the least hilly part of the division, the difference is as low as 15 metres as in the compartment No. 11 near Bardipada. Aspect and gradient also vary widely within narrow limits.

DRAINAGE : RIVER SYSTEM

In the river system, the Ambika and the Purna are important rivers. They originate from the Dangs district and flow through the Bulsar district to meet the Arabian Sea in the west.

The Purna

Rising in the hills of the Salher, it passes through Chinchli, Mahal. Kalibel and Borigaotha. The river after leaving the boundary of the district flows through the Vyara taluka of Surat district and finally meets the Arabian Sea in the Navsari taluka of the Bulsar district.

The Ambika

Rising in the Kem hills which are situated near Bondarmal (Dangs district) and Shribhuvan (Maharashtra) villages, the Ambika river flows past the villages of Rambhas and Waghai. After passing through this district the river flows through Bulsar and finally meets itself in the Arabian Sea near Bilimora.

The Khapri

The river rises in the Bhegu valley of Kanchanghat mountain. Flowing past the villages of Galkund, Khapri, Bhavangadh and Pimpri, the river meets the Ambika river near Borkhal village in the Dangs.

The Gira

Flowing from the direction of Malangdev Ota, which is situated in the Maharashtra State, the river on its way touches Singana, Girmal, Bardipada, and Divadiawan villages of this district and finally meets the river Mindhola in the Songadh taluka of the Surat district.

The Dhodhad

Rising in the Davad hills of the Western Ghats, the river passes by the villages of Pipaldahad. Ghana and Uga in the district. It finally empties itself in river Purna near Laochali.

The Sarpganga

Rising in the Western Ghats, the river Sarpganga flows past the Saputara village in the serpentine manner and proceeds in the direction of the Nasik district of the Maharashtra State.

Besides the above mentioned rivers, there are a few small catchment pools formed out of rocks in the deep valleys of the district. These are Umara, Dhamda, Kunda and Kasarpada. In addition to these, some small perennial streams also exist in the district. These are Koshmal, Vanar, Ukhatia, Morzira, Don and Ambapada.

GEOLOGICAL FORMATION

The geological formation of the Dangs district is given below in tabular form :

Formation		Age
Soil/Alluvium		Recent
2 Basic Intrusives 1 Basalt Flows	Deccan trap	Middle Cretaceous to lower eocene

The Deccan traps represented by amygdaloidal and fine-grained basalts with fine-grained basic intrusives occupy extensive area ; a horizon of brecciated trap is also observed.

The amygdaloidal basalt is seen at a number of places between Pimpri, Kalibel and Ghadvi alternating with fine-grained basalts. It either forms the top of a fine-grained basalt flow or as a distinct flow by itself, having a sharp contact with the underlying flow.

The amygdules are generally ovid in shape and are aligned either vertical or in a few cases roughly parallel to the top of the flow. They range in size from a few millimetres to as much as eight to ten centimetres. The amygdules, representing the emanations from the lava at the late stages of cooling are zeolites in radiating sheaf like aggregates, calcite, chalcedony and other cryptocrystalline varieties of silica.

The fine-grained basalt is generally massive, finely crystalline and almost non-vesicular. A porphyritic variety is met with about 1 kilometre to the north of Hanwatchond.

The brecciated basalt exposed around Ahwa, to the north-east of Borkhet, west of Chankhal and north of Ghadvi, is as much as 10 metres thick or even more. The rock is a fine-grained basalt, dark greyish to brownish, highly brecciated and filled by aggregates of honey-yellow translucent felspar having resinous lustre. In thin section, the rock shows laths and microlites of felspar, irregular plates of augite and iron-ore together with olivine in altered state.

The trap flows are traversed by a few basaltic intrusives ; discordant intrusives are comparatively more common than the concordant types. The general trend of the intrusives is east-north-east—west-south-west ; though east-south-east—west-north-west and north-north-east—south-south-west directions are not uncommon. Typical dykes of fine-grained basalt, noted south of Chikhli and north of Hanwatchond and Pipaliamal occur in the form of dark grey boulders of varying sizes. Generally, they vary in width from a few metres to 30 metres. The dykes near Hanwatchond and Pipaliamal dip 70° to 85° towards south-south-west.

The trap flows show a general north-east—south-west to east-north-east—west-south-west trends with 4° to 13° dip towards both sides, less commonly north-north-east—south-south-west to north-west—south-west or rarely north-south trends with low easterly dips are also discernible at places.

Although altitudes of flows recorded between Waghai railway station and Pimpri indicate a broad anticlinal warp, it is doubtful whether such a feature is due to adjustment of flows to the underlying uneven surface at the time of effusion or to the subsequent tectonic movements.

Soil—Black cotton soil is found in the valleys and low lands and red soil in the uplands. Black cotton soil or *regur* as it is called is a clayey

to loamy, very fertile soil and is composed largely of clay material. It is generally black and contains high alumina, lime and magnesia with a variable amount of low nitrogen and phosphorus. The red soil is light and porous and contains no soluble salts or *kankar*. It is moderately fertile for agricultural purposes.

Minerals—Small lenticular pockets of light cream coloured travertine are noticed along the banks of the streams, particularly near the villages of Chichgaotha and Dhadhra. These lenticles of travertine, however, are too small for any large scale industrial exploitation. These deposits can only be used for local lime-burning.

Water Supply—Within the traps, the water level is found to vary in depth from 6 to 12 metres. The yield also varies greatly. Ground-water reservoirs in the traps are small and ground-water levels and other features vary within short distances. It has been observed that in traps, occurrence of close-spaced horizontal joints seem to be more suitable for large yields while columnar joints come next in importance. In many places, wide shallow depressions bounded by trap ridges are excellent sites for wells.

FLORA

Forests

These forests are capable of producing large dimensional timber and add to the State Exchequer revenue from Rs. 125 lakhs to Rs. 150 lakhs. The total revenue from Dangs forests works out to half the total revenues from the forests of Gujarat. The economy of the district centres round the forests.

The Dangs district has the richest forests in the whole of Gujarat. The picturesque forests of district extend over an area of 1,708·23 sq. kms.[1] and have rich growth of teak, sajad and bamboo and many other timber species, important medicinal plants and the beauty spots like Saputara.

History

The history of the forest conservancy, management and exploitation is very chequered and may be divided broadly into the following periods :

(1) Period of rough farming of timber (1818 to 1845 A. D.)

(2) Irregular working under Departmental supervision (1846 to 1902 A. D.)

(3) Attempts at systematic management (1903 to 1915 A. D.)

1. Settlement Commissioner and Director of Land Records, Gujarat State, Ahmedabad.

(4) Exploitation of forests under Working Plans

(a) Working Plan by G. E. Marjoribanks (1916 to 1946 A. D.)

(b) Revision of Marjoribanks' Plan by Jadhav (1949 to 1957 A. D.)

(c) Revised Draft Working Plan for Dangs Forests by Shri M. S. Khanchandani.

(1) *Period of Rough Farming of Timber (1818 to 1845 A. D.)*—The history of the district is traceable as far back as 1818 when the British Government first came into contact with the Bhil Rajas who were ruling over petty tracts comprising Dangs. From 1818 to 1845, the practice of rough farming out of timber rights was in vogue between the Bhil Chiefs and the Surat merchants through the Timber Agent who acted on behalf of the British Government under various arrangements with the Chiefs. The entire working was irregular. It is recorded that in 1844, one of the Surat merchants paid Rs. 2,700 for one year's contract of Ghadvi Dangs. At that time all timber was subjected to heavy transit duty levied by the Gaekwad. There was no limit to exploitation except the market demand, labour supply and means of transport. From the border of Dangs, fair weather tracts existed towards the west while there were hardly any tracts within, except a few drag-paths. Annual exports of timber was of the order of 3,000 cart-loads and most of this must have been cut from the easily accessible parts in the form of picked logs.

With a view to securing teak for the King's Navy, the British Government entered into lease arrangements in 1842 with the Rajas, as a result of which 466 villages were taken over on lease. The lease was subsequently extended to the whole of Dangs forests in 1862. In 1879 the first forest settlement took place and the forests were constituted into reserved and demarcated.

(2) *Irregular Working under Departmental Supervision (1846-1902 A. D.)*—From 1846 to 1902, the working though irregular was carried out under the supervision of the Department. Promiscuous fellings mainly of teak went on from 1845 to 1875, trees being marked by Karkoons under the superintendence of the Forest Inspectors, felled and removed both by the purchasers and by the Department. Considerable quantities of dead teak, (i. e., those killed by annual fires) were also harvested. There was almost wholesale destruction of *khair* trees, and as many as 75 *katha bhathis* (kilns) were licensed annually at about Rs. 10 per kiln per month. From 1877 to 1889, an annual average of about 600 tons (about 900 cubic meters) of teak was sold standing in the forest both from the east and west Dangs, and some 500 tons (about 700 cubic meters) of junglewoods

from the west Dangs. There were also fairly extensive departmental cuttings, the timber being collected and sold at jungle depots. There was no regularity whatsoever. The annual yield of timber varied from hundreds to thousands of tons and that of bamboos which were removed on permits varied from one to nine lakhs. The gross revenue varied from Rs. 25,000 to Rs. 80,000.

Various methods of exploitation of forest and extraction of produce were employed, given up and tried again with a view to attract purchasers. Extraction partly by roads and partly by rivers to coast depots from west Dangs was tried under departmental working. Removal of timber on permits from east Dangs was in vogue. Here the timber was squared and dragged up the ghats into Nasik and Khandesh districts. Trees were also sold standing both in east and west Dangs. The exploitation during this period amounted to heavy selection fellings of best available timber, the only limiting factors for this unsystematic fellings being the limited market demand, lack of means of export and the loose restriction that the timber should be of marketable size. Dhamoda poles were removed at an export fee of 1 anna each, the annual output varying from a few thousand to over twenty thousand. It seems that regular depletion of sound teak trees took place in the main western valleys. Large quantities of middle-sized teak and *tiwas* were removed on permits from the eastern portions through ghat drag paths. This accounted for large quantity of big timber left in the north and central Dangs. There was good deal of theft of timber also into the Baroda territory under cover of the Baroda permits. In 1897, with the opening of the Tapti Valley Railway, now known as the Bhusaval-Surat section of the Western Railway, there was boom in the irregular extraction amounting to virtual depletion of teak from all the accessible portions and nearly 60,000 teak trees down to 90 cms. girth were girdled and felled for sleepers in north Dangs alone. The result of this and the previous working was that the protected forests and the new reserves in the west Purna valley were nearly cleared of sound timber.

(3) *Attempts at Systematic Management (1903-1915)*—As the Chiefs and Naiks resorted to promiscuous felling of timber the Bombay Government created a post of a Divisional Forest Officer, Dangs in 1903 and appointed him as *ex-officio* Assistant Political Agent, Dangs with First Class Magisterial powers.

Government[1] ordered a period of rest of 12 years for all the reserves for the first time. First attempt at systematic working began in 1904 when rough working scheme for the protected forest over a period of 10 years was introduced. This scheme prescribed annual yield of about 500 tons (about 750 cubic meters) in respect of teak and 375 tons (about 550 cubic meters) in respect of junglewoods. for north Dangs extraction being confined

1. In their Resolution No. 8657 of 8th December, 1902.

to trees yielding not less than a log of 1 *khandi* (12·5 cubic feet or about ⅓ cubic meter). The fellings for the first time were now definitely located and the annual yield was indicated. This was really a great advance towards scientific management of forests.

First attempt at protection of forests from ravages of fires was made in 1906 with introduction of fire protection measures consisting of a system of fire stations with drums and watchers combined with alerting and warning the population, enlisting their co-operation and making judicial use of the magisterial powers then vested in the Divisional Forest Officer. These measures had a marvellous effect in putting down the fire hazard to a great extent.

The legal or more strictly the political position of the forests in the Dangs was summed up by Mr. Marjoribanks[1] as under :

"(i) The Dangs are a non-regulation tract in which any administrative order of Government has the force of law.

(ii) Government are bound by no Acts but the spirit of the Indian Penal Code, Criminal Procedure Code, Abkari Act and Indian Forest Act is followed as far as possible.

(iii) Government have full rights over the Reserves.

(iv) In the Protected Forests Government have full commercial rights over all forest produce and can protect and maintain forest as such subject to their allowing sufficient land to be cleared for cultivations and to the grant of free timber and other produce for domestic purposes.

(v) Government have the right to fix the land revenue assessment but it is payable to the Chiefs alone.

In practice and by virtue of their having the power to do so while the Chiefs have proved themselves incapable of it and have violated the terms of their agreement Government have virtually assumed the entire administration of the Dangs."

(4) *Exploitation of Forests under Working Plans*

(a) *Working Plan by Marjoribanks (1916-1946)*—After the period of rest ordered by Government, first regular working plan was drawn up by

1. Marjoribanks, *Working Plan for the Forests of North Dangs*, Surat Agency, (1913).

G. E. Marjoribanks for North Dangs Range in 1913. In 1916, he also drew up a working plan for the South Dangs Range.

In 1926, the above two plans were brought together by Marjoribanks along with the hitherto unexploited area of the Central Dangs. Marjoribanks' plan divided the entire area of reserved forest into 20 blocks and 303 compartments, while the protected forests were divided into 18 blocks and 176 compartments. Every block in reserved and protected forests had its own set of compartments beginning from serial number one. The fellings were prescribed for a period of 20 years, i. e., for half the period of the felling cycle. The period of the plan thus expired in 1945-46.

The method of preparation and execution of these plans as well as the method of new plantations carried out on scientific basis is quite interesting. Before preparing the plans, the growth pattern of each and every tree is observed and a systematic felling series of a number of coupes is determined, according to which exploitation takes place in a regular cycle of 60 to 80 years. After a coupe is clear felled, the operation of rab is undertaken, i. e., leaves, grass, etc., is set on fire in the clear felled area, thus destroying seeds of weeds which impede new growth. Thereafter new saplings are planted at the rate of 1,210 per acre and after a particular stage of growth the plantation is subjected to thinning by stages till only those trees are left out which are to be allowed to grow for the full term of 60 to 80 years.

(b) *Revision of Marjoribanks' Plan by Jadhav (1949-1957)*—It may be recalled that the British executed forest leases from the Dangs Chiefs in 1842. These leases were renewed in 1862 in perpetuity. After the transfer of the political control of the Dangs State to the Government of India in 1933, the question of appropriation of the surplus revenue from the Dangs forest cropped up. In the interest of the Chiefs and the inhabitants of the Dangs, it was decided that the leases should be terminated with effect from 1st April, 1937 and that the forests should be worked departmentally for the benefit of the Dangis

In 1949, the revision of Marjoribanks' plan was taken up by Jadhav and he submitted the draft plan sometime in 1957. Very little field work was done for the purpose of the revision. When Mr. Jadhav took up the revision of the Working Plan, he suggested in his preliminary report to have continuous serial number in reserved and protected blocks. This was not accepted on the plea that the local subordinates and the contractors were used to existing numerology of blocks and compartments and any change would cause confusion. This plea was, however, not correct. In fact the local subordinates and the contractors were not at all conversant with the blocks and compartments, as the system of working was by felling series and coupes. Though the Working Plan Officer, considered it necessary to

apply more intensive method of treatment he did not suggest any effective modification in the previous plan, except for the change in felling cycle from 40 to 50 years. After protracted correspondence between the Divisional Forest Officer, Working Plans, the territorial Divisional Forest Officer, the Silviculturist and the Conservator, the draft plan was not accepted. However, with a view to slowing down the pace of fellings, a felling cycle and a felling programme suggested by Jadhav were accepted.

(c) *Revised Working Plan by Shri Khanchandani*—The revised working plan for Dangs forests prepared by Shri M. S. Khanchandani describes the general objects of the forest management as follows :

(i) to increase the stocking in the forests, to as great extent as possible, so as to eliminate the blanks from every productive bit of the forest land and to maintain and improve the fertility of the soil,

(ii) to improve the value and productivity of the crop,

(iii) to meet the legitimate demands of the local population and requirements of market and industries for forest produce,

(iv) to extract silviculturally available forest produce with due regard to scientific principles so as to minimise the wastage,

(v) to take steps to bring the growing stock into a condition akin to that of an ideal normal forest, and

(vi) to ensure the maximum financial return compatible with the objective of forest development.

According to the working plan, the entire forest management in the Dangs forests is prescribed under 7 working circles and few miscellaneous regulations. The period of the plan is fixed at 20 years from April 1966 to March 1986.

Marjoribanks' plan of 1926 divided the entire area of reserved and protected forests into blocks and compartments. Every block in reserved and protected forests had its own set of compartments beginning from serial number one. Shri Khanchandani considered it necessary to have permanent compact units of management. He, therefore, recommended reorganisation of compartments as under :

(1) The number of blocks in the reserved and the protected forests was to remain unchanged, but instead of indicating them by serial numbers, they would be described by prominent hill or village names in or near them.

(2) In the case of protected forests, the size of compartments will remain unchanged as in the old plan except for the areas transferred from the Dangs to other divisions. The compartments will now have continuous serial numbers from one onwards. Reorganisation in their size, etc., is not contemplated now, as revenue settlement for agricultural lands, village sites, etc., is not yet finalised.

(3) In the reserved forests the shape and boundaries of the present compartments are not to be altered. Enumerations are carried out on the basis of old compartments as units. Their boundaries are conditioned by the natural physical features. However, the areas of the existing compartments vary within wide limits and every compartment is an irregular and heterogeneous mix-up of more than one quality site. Endeavour is now made to reorganise the compartments in such a way that the average compartment area varies from 200 to 400 hectares. Heterogeneity of mixture of quality classes is also reduced to some extent. All big compartments are thus divided individually and small adjoining compartments are amalgamated to have convenient optimum size and homogeneity of growth as far as possible. Forest area transferred to other divisions is excluded and that transferred to Dangs is included and formed into new compartments. In all 341 compartments are now formed in reserved forests and they are given one continuous serial number from 1 to 341.

Laying out of Compartment Lines

The area of Dangs division was divided into blocks and compartments under the old plans but this division existed only on the maps. There was no clear-cut demarcation of compartments on the ground, though many compartments were denoted by fixing zinc plates showing relevant block and compartment number trees at the corners of the compartments and other prominent places on their boundaries. Maintenance of these zinc plates was seldom carried out in the past and they were completely neglected during the last 15 years and most of them have by now disappeared. Thus the old compartment boundaries, though existing on maps, are not easy to locate on the ground.

For the compartments to serve useful purpose as permanent units of administration, management, fire protection, etc., it is necessary that they should be laid out on the ground with well-defined clear-cut boundaries. Total length of the reserved forest compartment boundaries barring the boundary between reserved and protected forests is 630·33 kms. Of this 378·52 kms. are along natural features like major nullahs, streams, roads, etc., while the remaining length of 251·81 kms. will be artificially cut lines. The latter have been laid out on the ground as a part of working plan field work. It is proposed to set apart an artificial compartment boundary line of width of 3 metres, which will be permanently maintained either by keeping it clear of vegetation or in other suitable manner.

Legal Position

The entire district of Dangs was notified as reserved forest under Notification No. 26 F, dated 1st March, 1879 issued by the Chief Secretary to Government of Bombay. The Notification is reproduced below :

"No. 26 F—In exercise of the powers conferred by section 34 of Indian Forest Act, 1878, His Excellency the Governor in Council hereby declares the forest country herein described below and known as the leased Dangs to be Reserved Forests.

Boundaries of the Dangs :

North :—Khandesh district of Nawapur and His Highness the Gaikwad's district of Songad.

South :—Petty State of Surgana.

East :—The districts of Khandesh and Nasik.

West :—The native State of Bansda and His Highness the Gaikwad's district of Antapur.

By order of His Excellency the Honourable the Governor in Council

E. W. RAVENSCROFT,
Chief Secretary to Government."

Subsequently, it was found necessary to set aside certain areas for exercise of privileges including cultivation. These areas were termed as protected forests. No Notification seems to have been issued for deleting these areas from the reserved forests and declaring them as protected forests.

The first forest settlement was done in 1891 by Mr. A. Lucas and this was approved by Government in 1892.[1] Under this resolution 561·38 sq. kms. (217·12 sq. miles) were set aside as reserved forests. For years, this reservation was only nominal, as there was neither law nor authority and establishment to back it up. The Chiefs (Rajas) and their people, conceiving it to be the beginning of an attempt to deprive them of their rights, applied themselves with vigour to cutting, burning and cultivating the so called reserves. Large tracts of almost virgin forests were practically wiped out. This was in complete violation of the agreements entered into by the Chiefs with the British Government and as a consequence a Special

1. Under Resolution No. 5977, dated 22nd July, 1892, in the Revenue Department.

Divisional Forest Officer was appointed in 1903 duly empowered with first class magisterial powers, to make the Chiefs abide by the terms of their agreement and to apply the spirit of the Indian Forest Act.

On the recommendation of the Divisional Forest Officer, Dangs, the Government in Revenue Department[1] sanctioned additional 294·26 sq. kms. (113·81 sq. miles) of forest area to the reserves thus raising the total area of the reserved forests to 855·64 sq. kms. (330·93 sq. miles).

The legal position in the Dangs then was as under :

(1) The Dangs being the non-regulation tract, any administrative order of Government had the force of law.

(2) The Government was not bound by any Acts but the spirit of the Indian Forest Act and other Acts and Codes was followed as far as possible.

(3) The Government had full rights over the reserves.

(4) In the protected forests, Government had full commercial rights over all forest produce and could protect and maintain the forests as such, subject to their allowing sufficient land for cultivation and to the grant of free timber and other produce for domestic purposes.

On repeal of the Indian Forest Act, 1878, by the Indian Forest Act, 1927 (XVI of 1927), the question arose whether it was necessary to renotify the forest areas in Dangs to make the reservation duly valid. It was, however, directed by the Government[2] that this was not necessary. The question regarding validity of forest settlement of Dangs came up for consideration before the Government in the year 1957. It was opined by the Legal Department[3] as under :

> " It is true that the present classification of the forests in the Dangs as Reserved and Protected cannot be held to have sanctioned in law merely because it has existed for several years and on the strength of past usage and convention. It is also possible to make a regulation for the Dangs area under para 5 (2) of the Fifth Schedule to the Constitution for this purpose. It is, however, competent for Government to issue now the necessary notifications under the Indian Forest Act, 1927, notifying the classifications for the future. As regards the past, unless the classification so far followed or any acts committed

1. Under their Resolution No. 4265, dated 2nd May, 1911.

2. Under their No. 7367-D/24, dated 28th April, 1928.

3. Under their No. U. O. R. A. and F. D. 27530/A, dated 2nd September, 1959.

in pursuance of the same are challenged or are likely to be challenged, it does not appear necessary to make any such regulations."

From the above, it will be seen that some area was set aside as reserved forest under some nominal settlements. All this was probably done under executive orders without following the procedure as laid down in the Indian Forest Act. In effect, as forest conservancy began taking roots in Dangs certain areas were excluded from cultivation and exercise of privileges. These were termed as reserved forests. In the remaining area, which was termed as protected forest, cultivations were allowed but the land as such along with the tree growth vested in the State. At present, in this area, the tree-growth is managed by the Forest Department while the land is managed by the Revenue Department. As already described, the old reservation is not considered valid. Hence all the former reserved and protected forests comprising the Dangs district with the exception of a few survey numbers comprising the town development areas of Ahwa and Waghai and a piece of land in village Saputara forming the premises of District Local Board rest house, is declared as protected forests[1] under section 29 of Indian Forest Act, 1927. It is also decided to carry out forest settlement and declare all the existing so called reserved forests and other suitable areas as reserved forests under section 20 of Indian Forest Act, 1927.

The forest area in three villages of the former Baroda State now included in the Dangs district was reserved under the Baroda Forest Act. However, the reservation made under the Baroda Forest Act is not considered valid now, in respect of the forest areas of ex-Navsari district of Baroda State in the absence of relevant 'Revalidation Notification' after merger of Baroda State into the ex-Bombay State. But for all practical purposes these forests are treated and considered as reserved forests. Action is being taken separately to issue 'Revalidation Notification' so that all forests of the former Baroda State now in the Surat Forest Circle get the legal sanctity of the reserved forest. 66·0268 hectares of waste land in these three villages were notified under section 4 of the Indian Forest Act in 1959 and the forest settlement is yet to be done.

According to the Working Plan, the position is as under :

(1) Area notified as protected forest under section 29 of Indian Forest Act (from original Dangs Division).	1695·83 sq. kms. (169,583 hectares)
(a) Area (from 1 above) popularly known as Reserved now proposed to be notified under section 4 of Indian Forest Act, 1927.	898·1049 sq. kms. (89,810·49 hectares)

1. Under Government Notification No. M. S. C. /4064-A, dated 3rd January, 1969.

(2) Area of reserved forests.

(a) During the former Baroda State regime and now included in the Dangs district.	276·1268 hectares
(b) Area of former Baroda State, now in the Dangs district and notified under section 4 of Indian Forest Act.	70·66 hectares

Thus, the classification of the Dangs forests into protected and reserved is now regularised.

Forest Distribution (including area, types, classification, etc.)

The total forest area in Dangs division is 1,708·23 sq. kms. The entire district barring some small areas around Ahwa and Waghai has been declared as protected forests[1] under section 29 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927.

The work declaring 826·55 sq. kms. of an area as reserved forests has been taken on hand and the necessary notification has been issued under the provisions of section 4 of the Indian Forests Act, 1927.[2] The forests of the Dangs are capable of producing large dimensional timber and yield an yearly revenue varying from Rs. 1·25 to Rs. 1·50 crores to the State exchequer. Presumably the revenue realized from the Dangs forest amounts to half the total revenue realized from the forests of Gujarat State.

The economy of the district is based on forests. The local Adivasis enjoy number of rights and privileges as shown in Appendix I to this Chapter and mainly earn their livelihood from forestry operations. As may be expected, the main requirements of the people from the forests are grazing and penning facilities, certain species of wood for making agricultural implements and small timber, fuel and bamboos. Bamboos are used as rafters. In addition to this Dangs forests partially meet the demand of timber of Railways and other Government departments, and as such, play a vital role in the economy of the State and country

Composition—The district of Dangs is favourably situated for the growth of forests, as it lies within the belt of heavy rainfall. Consequently

1. Under the Notification of Government of Gujarat, No. MSC/4063/A, dated the 3rd January, 1963.

   According to the Settlement Commissioner and Director of Land Records, Gujarat State, Ahmedabad, the total area of the forests as on 1st May, 1971 was 1708·23 sq. kms. of which 831·95 sq. kms. constituted reserved forest area and 876·28 sq. kms. protected forest area.

2. Vide the Notification of Government of Gujarat, No. AKH/360/MSC/4060/50150/P. dated the 16th January, 1969.

the district abounds in dense forests. The forest, indeed, is an emporium of innumerable varieties of vegetation, timber, wood and other medicinal herbs. The Appendix II to this Chapter enlists some of the important varieties of timber and their uses in detail found in the district.

According to Champion's "Classification of Forest Types", the Dangs forest belongs to the type "South Indian tropical moist deciduous forests" (Group 3 A. subtype CI). This classification is based mainly on the annual precipitation received in the tract.[1] Effects of biotic factors and soil conditions are also taken into consideration, as all these factors affect composition of vegetation. According to these proposals, composition of tree-growth is taken as an indicator of the type of the forests, and Dangs forests fall under the type "Semi Moist Teak Forests". Within the above type, local variations are observed, depending on the nature of soil, topography and past treatment. The local variations merge into one another and they are found intermingled. Teak (*Tectona grandis*) is the principal species of the tract and its occurrence is almost universal in the area, barring a strip of forest situated along the high hills in the east and a few small patches in low-lying depressions and near the river banks near Waghai, Mahal, etc. Composition of tree growth varies slightly according to edaphic and biotic factors and different communes of vegetation can be differentiated over small patches as micro-variations, but, by and large, the composition is almost the same throughout. This has been borne out by the 10 per cent stratified systematic random sampling that has been carried out throughout the reserved forests. Composition of the vegetation in general is given below, species being in descending order of frequency as far as possible :

Overwood—The following species form the overwood or the top canopy of the crop :—Teak (*Tectona grandis*), sadad (*Terminalia tomentosa*), Kakad (*Garuga pinnata*), Modad (*Lannea Coromandelica*), Tiwas (*Ougeinia Dalbergioides*), Shisham (*Dalbergia latifolia*), Kalam (*Mitragyna Parviflora*), Khair (*Acacia catechu*), Haldu (*Adina cordifolia*), Sawar (*Salmalia malabarica*), Kada, Karai, Kalauri (*Sterculia urens*), Biyo (*Pterocarpus marsupium*), Mahuda (*Madhuka indica*), Baheda (*Terminalia belerica*), Kakria, Bondaro (*Lagerstroemia parviflora*), Patriali (*Dalbergia paniculata*), Dandoshi, Gengri (*Dalbergia lanceolaria*), Dhaman (*Grewia tiliaefolia*), Umbh (*Saccopetalum tomentasum*), Nanobondaro (*Lagerstroemia lanceolata*), Kelai (*Albizzia procera*), Kalo or pilo Siris (*Albizzia lebbek*), Pongaro (*Erythrina indica*), Gararo (*Erythrina suberosa*), Asan, Ekal kanto (*Bridelia retusa*), Kanti, Khaiger (*Acacia ferruginea*), Dhamodo, Dhavda (*Anogeissus latifolia*), Waras (*Heterophragma quadriloculare*), Papda (*Holoptelea integrifolia*),

1. In an article on "Regeneration of teak forests" by Seth and Waheed Khan (*Indian Forester*; August 1958) stress is laid not only on the quantum of annual precipitation but also on its distribution.

Chamoli (*Bauhinia vahlii*), Petar (*Trewia nudiflora*), Shiwan, Sawan (*Gamelina arborea*), Nimbaro (*Melia dubia*).

Underwood—Generally following species are seen in the underwood or middle canopy :

Ambada (*Spodias mangifera*), Kumbhio (*Careya arborea*) Kossama (*Schleichera oleosa*), Kudi, Indrajav (*Orightia tinctoria*); Timru, Tamruj (*Diospyros melanoxylon*), Avla, Ambla, Amla, (*Emblica officinalis*), Ashitro (*Bauhinia racemosa*), Aledi, Alladi (*Morinda tinctoria*), Bahwa, Garmala (*Cassia fistula*), Ghatbor (*Zizyphus sylopyra*), Kuda (*Holarrhena antidysenterica*) Mokha, Popti, Ghant (*Schrebera swieteniodes*), Bel (*Aegle marmelos*), Waring (*Kydia calycina*), Bhui-umber or Khorat or Kal-umber (*Ficus asperrima*), Kirmiro (*Casearia tomentosa*), Palas or Khakro (*Butea monosperma*), Gol (*Trema orientalis*), Umber (*Ficus rumphii*), Adu (*Vangueria spinosa*), Khadsing (*Stereospermum xylocarpum*), Charoli (*Buchania lanzan*), Rohin (*Soymida febrifuga*), Karmal (*Dillenia pentagyna*), Bivlo or bhilamo (*Samecarpus anacardium*), Tetu, Podval (*Oroxylum indicum*), Kadwai, Amarachala, Brahmarasalya Dondra (*Hymenodictyon excelsum*), Bor (*Zizyphus mauritiana*), Aritha (*Sapindus emarginatus*), Karanji (*Pongamia pinnata*), Chinch, Amli (*Tamarindus indica*), Hardan (*Terminalia chebula*), Jambu (*Syzygium cumini*), Kovidar (*Bauhinia variegata*). *Kanku* (*Mallotus philippinensis*), Katas vans, Tonear, Wang (*Bambusa bambos*), Manvel vans (*Dendrocalamus strictus*).

Undergrowth—Species in this category are : Antedi or mardasing (*Helicteres isora*), Karvi (*Strobilanthus callosus*), Dhavati (*Woodfordia floribunda*), Karvand (*Carissa carandus*), Nigodi (*Vitex negundo*), Ukshi (*Calycopteris floribunda*), Gal or Mindhal (*Randia dumatorum*), Galgughar (*Falcourtia indica*), Pevta (*Costus speciosus*). Liptyo (*Uvria picta*), Ranbhendi (*Thespesia macrophylla*). Tarota (*Cassia tora*), Ranmabadi (*Hibiscus furcatus*), Rantulsi (*Ocimum basilicum*), Poptyo (*Flemingia strobilifera*), Chiktyo (*Desmodium parviflorum*). Darnoli (*Argemone mexicana*), Borthado (*Eriolaena candollei*), Boga (*Tephrosia candida*), Ketki (*Agave sislana*), Rankeli (*Musa superba*), Morisi (*Nyctanthus arbotristis*).

Ground Cover—The following species compose the ground cover--Pular (*Leea aspera*), Fulari (*Leucas biflora*). Serva (*Asystasia coromandeliana*). Sonaro or Zinzudo (*Achyranthes aspera*), Nani-Madri (*Desmodium trifolium*), Ran-haldar (*Carcuma aromatica*). Sarvat (*Vicoa auriculata*), Ikharo (*Asteracantha longifolia*), Ghoghdo or Ghoghdi (*Randia uliginosa*). Gokhru (*Pedalium murex*), Dini (*Leea sambucina*).

Grasses—Common grasses occurring in the tract area : Polado (*Spdiopogon rhizophous*), Tokarbund (*Panicum montanum*). Bhatdo

(*Themeda ciliata*), Dab Dhurvo (*Cynodon dactylon*), Kasur or Sukli, Dabhsuli (*Heteropogon contortus*), Rosha (*Cymbopogan martinii*), Walchond (*Vetiveria zizynoides*), Dhokro or Dhokri (*Eleusine aegyptica*), Gundan or Gandhei (*Chloris incompleta*), Dabdya or Dobdu (*Polytoca cookei*)

Climbers—The forests are infested with climbers, common amongst which are :

Velabivala (*Millettia racemosa*), Palasvel (*Butea superba*), Nandanvel or Panivel (*Vitis repanda*), Kangvel (*Ventilago madraspatana*), Mendhvel (*Cryptolepis buchanani*), Vaghatvel (*Wagatea spicata*), Gharvel (*Tinospora cordifolia*), Asaivel (*Ventilago calyculata*), Amarvel (*Cuscuta reflexa*), Kavich (*Mucuna pruriens*), Chilar (*Acacia intsia*), Toranvel (*Zizyphus rugosa*), Tanvel (*Cocoulus villosus*), Gunj or Chakoti (*Abrus precatorius*), Digad (*Dioscorea bulbifera*), Kaduvel, Majrakand or Kuvel (*Dioscorea pentaphylla*), Bokadvel or Dhumasvel (*Combretum ovalifolium*), Ranudid (*Teramus labialis*), Shikakai (*Acacia concinna*), Koharvel (*Ipomea digitata*).

The forest products useful as Ayurvedic medicines are *amarvel* (*Cuscuta reflexa*), *vando* (*Loranthus longiflorus*), *musli* (*Orchis latifolia* or *Curculago orchioides*), sonaru (*agheda*) (*Achranthus aspera*), *burandu* (*Lagerstroemia parviflora*), *nagpheni* (*Sensiviera roxburgiana*), *Garmalo* (*Cassia fistula*), *hardan* (*Terminalia chebula*), *bedan* (*Terminalia belerica*) and *amla* (*Phyllanthus indica*). Moreover, oil is extracted from a special quality of grass called *rosha* (*Cymbopogon schoenanthus*) which is found here and used for mixing it with scents.

In view of the abundance of the medicinal herbs in the State, the Gujarat Government appointed a Committee for Gardens of Medicinal Plants in 1964 to make a comprehensive study of the medicinal plants available in the forests in the State and to suggest their uses in preparation of the Ayurvedic medicines. The Committee, *inter alia* toured the forest areas of the Dangs district and studied medicinal herbs growing therein. The findings of the Committee are very revealing and are given in Appendix III to this Chapter.

Aspect has a marked effect on growth and density of vegetation. Forest on the north and east side of the hill or chain of hills is always superior to that on west and south sides. The difference is more marked between north and south than between east and west aspects. Many hills are grassy and partially blank on the south shoulder when a few metres over the ridge the vegetation is dense. The reserves on the left bank slopes of the Gira, the Purna, the Khapri and the Ambika rivers have a far denser and better mixed crop of timber than the opposite slopes.

The main characteristics of these forests are the extreme variation in quality, density and irregular age class distribution. Topography, hydrology and soils show similar variations with bewildering frequency. One and the same compartment, may often have more than one or all of the moist, semi-moist and dry types so irregularly and intimately mixed as to preclude feasilibity of their separation for management. This extremely variable character of the forests especially in respect of topography, stocking and quality is a matter of profound importance in determining the silvicultural system for the forests.

Intimately and irregularly, as the forest types are mixed up within narrow limits due to reasons of topography, etc., one can differentiate, broadly speaking, two types of forests, namely, (1) Moist Teak type and (2) Dry Teak type, as one proceeds from west to east. Though there is no sharp dividing line, bulk of the area in the present Waghai, Pimpri, Bheskatri and Bardipada ranges (presant blocks I to IV, VIII to X, XV and XVI) falls within moist types, while that in the remaining part of the division comes under the drier type. What differentiates the moist type of teak from drier type of teak is its better quality, this almost certainly being due to greater amount of moisture which increases the length of the growing season. More moisture may be partly the result of heavier rainfall, which decreases as one proceeds from west to east, or it may also be due to local physiographic conditions, which would explain presence of moister and more luxuriant patches in the drier localities and *vice versa*.[1]

The forests can be roughly divided into two classes : those in which manvel bamboo is typically abundant, and those in which it is scarce or absent. The former class comprises the forests in western Dangs and the latter in the eastern Dangs. The limit being an arbitary line starting from near the villages Sivpara and Barda on the Dang-Surgana border in the south, over Bardamal hill, through Supdahad village, over Pipalghora hill in the reserved forest compartments 284 and 285 through the protected forests of Chikhli and Borkhal over Gurkhai hill through the protected forest of Borkhet along Barda nullah till it meets the Purna near Kasar. From there it runs through Kasadbari between Izwa reserve and Harul protected forest over Gaigothan and Kukibari hills through Sutarpara on the river Gira and then along a permanent nullah running plumb north towards the Sajwa hills on the Dangs-Vyara border. The manvel is not only more abundant in the forests on the west of this line but it also grows to greater average size and is found at higher elevations too. The above

1. The forests vary in quality from I to IV (M. P. qualities), corresponding to all India quality classes II/III to below IV. Area under quality I is negligible, as it occurs in small patches, while that under I and II combined, works out to only 4 per cent of the total reserved forest. Greater part of the forest is of quality III A and III B forming 40 per cent and 34 per cent, respectively. The rest is under quality IV, i. e., the poorest or under blanks. On the whole the forests can produce sound teak trees of 130 to 150 cms. in girth, while, the better quality areas can produce specially large-sized sound trees upto 200 cms. in girth or even more.

classification is a rough one, as bamboos are plentiful in many places even in the areas on the east of this line, while they are scarce or absent on the drier hill tops on the western side.

Within the two main classes distinguished either as moist teak and dry teak types or as bamboo bearing and non-bamboo bearing type, several sub types of forests are recognisable. But the above sub types of forests are so mixed up with each other that it is found hopeless to ascribe any one type to any one unit of forest. The distribution of species is also highly irregular, and the density, which on an average is moderate, changes often with a startling suddenness. The height growth varies nearly proportionately with the density but the diameter growth defies any proper classification by areas, and the whole forest is a perfect jumble of age classes representing various degrees of destruction, immunity and recovery from fires and old cultivations. These factors combined with the soil that varies from nearly surface rock to deep friable loam and the gradient varying from precipitous slope to flat terrace, several times the same hill side account for bewildering presentation of size and quality in the tree-growth all over the area.

In ascending the larger hills, say, from one of the valleys to the watershed, one finds typically the following succession of soil and growth.

(1) Flat and undulating lowest areas along the nullah, soil deep and dark with detritus from the hill; heavy junglewood, with large clean teak poles infested with climbers, tangled undergrowth and bamboo of either species, huge sadad, often the most prominent tree. Age classes well mixed, regeneration of teak scarce, other species copious but often stifled.

(2) Near the base and on the lower slopes, soil fairly deep with sharp red gravel and at times small boulders; either fine teak forest or dense belt of manvel bamboos which have usurped nearly all the growing space.

(3) The steep side slopes from ascending spur or ridge, reaching to the dips in the watershed, hard washed soil, stony and red; rank growth mostly of karvi and some small manvel bamboo; nearly half the teak stag headed.

(4) The rest upper slopes; crop much interrupted by old cultivations with precipitous intervals, former filled up with stunted pole crop, if enough soil is left, latter being rock supporting grass or karvi.

Most of the protected forests are in the less hilly country than the reserved. To a very large extent, the areas in the protected forests are either under cultivation and lopping or under lopping alone. Very little scattered area has been spared from these two harmful practices due to inaccessibility or remoteness from habitation, and there the composition is

the same as that in the neighbouring reserved forests. In the areas which are under cultivation and lopping, the tree-growth has disappeared or is fast disappearing and wherever it is still present, its composition has tended towards drier type. In the west and far up the main valley, the cultivation is still not extensive and the tree-growth presents a semblance of forest, further east and on the main plateaux, the tree-growth wherever still present is not often enough even to meet the local needs.

Teak and all species are lopped in the protected forests, and thereby almost all teak trees have been more or less ruined as timber. Intentional periodic burning has also caused considerable damage. The fact that the greater portion of unsound teak is seen in these areas than other species points to its greater power of surviving these two destructive practices. Many of these are mere remnants of burnt-out trees.

In the reserves, the teak forms about 30 per cent of the total tree-growth from 30 cms. girth upwards. Of the total trees from 120 cms girth and up it forms 53·8 per cent. Of the total trees which live beyond 150 cms. girth more than 51 per cent are teak. Thus the teak is very much prominent, and is found all over the area. On bettter soils, it grows commonly to 25 metres height and 180 cms. girth with about half of its height as a clear bole. Trees over 30 metres height and 200 cms. in girth are not rare. Even in the pole stage, trees may be found over 25 metres height over low-lying alluvial areas. On some high hills also, it reaches a large girth. It is said that timber from trees grown on exposed hill sides and ridges contains more oil and is darker in colour (often showing brown streaks in section) than that growing on rich low-lying soils and is considered more durable. Teak is found in mixture with all species, its size and quality bearing little relation to these.

Other superior timber species, namely, shisham, tiwas, bio, khair and sadad together form 13·2 per cent of the growing stock.

Shisham forms about 1·66 per cent of the entire growing stock and only about 6·21 per cent of the trees are 120 cms. girth and up. Large trees are uncommon but are now and then found upto 25 metres height and 180 cms. girth, generally unsound. This species is occasionally gregarious in cultivated flats where it sometimes forms pure patches of poles, (e. g., Kangrimal protected forest near Subir). It is found at all elevations, preferring better drained soil.

Tiwas forms about 3·79 per cent of the tree species. Trees are very occasionally found upto 20 metres height and 150 cms. girth. But the proportion of trees over 120 cms. girth is only 2·3 per cent and it is not usually a tall tree. It is most common in non-bamboo areas, especially on the dark soils on the plateaux where it is sometimes gregarious. It is

typically very crooked and unsound. Regeneration is fair to copious both from seeds and rootsuckers.

Bio is the stoutest fire-resister in the forest. It forms 0·36 per cent of the growing stock and 12·0 per cent of this is of 120 cms. girth and over. It is not particular about the soil and fine trees of 150 cms. girth and even more are not uncommon on exposed hill sides where other growth is inferior. It produces large quantities of seeds, very little of which germinates.

Khair forms 1·43 per cent of the tree species and only 4·16 per cent of them are 120 cms. girth and over. 17·0 per cent of these trees grow over 90 cms. girth up. It is found in all but the highest and most exposed situations and is very common on flat ground. It forms a conspicuous proportion of the trees left in protected forests under cultivation especially in the eastern part of the division, as it stands lopping well and is a strong fire-register, (e. g., protected forest areas of Ghana and Padalkhadi).

Sadad is very common among the first class junglewoods forming 5·98 per cent of the entire growing stock of which about 15·15 per cent is of 120 cms. girth and upwards. It requires moderately good soil to produce fine timber and is seldom found flourishing on dry and exposed situations. The best trees are found in the lower and middle reaches of the hills and on alluvial flats, where it is sometimes predominant species and where trees over 30 metres height and 240 cms. girth are fairly common.

Many other tree species occurring in these forests have some timber value. Important among them are *hed, kalam, kanti, nanu bondaro, kilai* and *siris*. *Hed* is the biggest tree in the forest. It forms 1·32 per cent of the growing stock and more than 15 per cent of the trees are over 150 cms. girth. They are found upto 40 meters height and 400 cms. in girth. The tree rarely is found or grows on flat rich soil, but is found on all other physical conditions, notably in rocky ravines. Many of the old trees are unsound and are doing harm to younger and more valuable growth.

Remaining species in the growing stock can be said to form third class junglewoods. Kakad and modad form the bulk of this category making up to 10·88 per cent. *Pongara, papado, waring, nimbaro, petar, varas* and *gol* are fast growing soft woods which occupy quite some area in these forests. At present they are not useful and are often left in the jungle. But with the rising tempo of industrialisation, soft woods are bound to get prominence and sooner or later these species will assume economic importance. These seven species together form 2·34 per cent of the growing stock.

Manvel bamboos are plentiful in the whole of the western Dangs. Katas keeps mostly to moister soils in a few valleys, where it reaches a large size. It also crops up here and there close under the ghats in the east.

Marjoribanks in his Working Plan has observed that regeneration of teak is good, often copious. Observations have shown that at present the situation in this respect has materially changed. To verify the exact status of regeneration of teak now, a survey of teak regeneration was carried out over about half the area of the reserved forests. It has shown that incidence of natural regeneration of teak varies from about 0·5 to 5 per cent. In other words, for every hundred quadrates of 2 meter square (6 feet square), only 1/2 to 5 quadrates had teak regeneration in varying stages of establishment. It is thus conclusively proved that natural regeneration of teak in the reserved forest is very poor and most undependable at present. Natural regeneration of other species especially those which cannot tolerate overhead shade is also meagre. Shade tolerant species like hed, sadad, tiwas do come up profusely in the areas which receive fair amount of protection from fire. The poor state of natural regeneration most probably be ascribed to the following factors.

(1) Severe ground fires often sweep through the area.

(2) Selection system of forest management results in continuous overhead shade. This is not conducive to recruitment and establishment of natural regeneration of light demanding species like teak.

(3) Occurrence of dense bamboos. karvi, grasses and other herbaceous vegetation inhibits natural regeneration particularly of light-demanding species.

(4) Refractory nature of local teak-seed does not allow prompt germination.

(5) It is a common practice that for want of adequate nursery stock. subordinates depend partly on natural seedlings in the forests for completing the plantation targets. Established seedlings in easily accessible areas in the forests are pricked, stumped and planted in the annual plantations.

Prominent silvicultural characteristic of these forests is that even though incidence of natural regeneration in the forest is very meagre, scattered patches of established advance growth, saplings and pole crop of teak and less commonly of other valuable species like tiwas, khair, shisham and sadad are met with in the forest. This advance growth can seldom be considered as plentiful or abundant. Curiously enough. this young growth is more profuse in less favourable and poorer localties. i. e., in drier and semi-moist areas and along the middle slopes, where patches of adequate advance growth are not uncommon and its occurrence in general varies from sporadic to near adequate. However, in the moister localities on alluvial sites, and in the valleys, advance growth is mostly inadequate, sparse or altogether wanting. Here patches with adequate sapling crop are rather rare and small in size. Factors responsible for lack of adequate advance

growth all over the area or most of it are not known precisely ; but they are probably the same as are responsible for absence of natural regeneration.

Natural regeneration in protected forests, which are under regular cultivation is naturally absent. However, in the areas not under cultivation, natural regeneration comes up fairly well as these areas are normally free from annual fires. But there is not much chance of establishment of this regeneration, as areas being open are subject to grazing and casual cultivation.

Fire Protection

Almost all forest fires are caused by human agency. Natural fires like those originating from lighting or mechanical friction between branches of the trees can be said to be absent. Similarly, accidental fires such as those caused through oversight in stamping out a burning *bidi* stub or camp fire are rare. Most of the fires are caused intentionally either by *shikaris*, cultivators, minor-forest-produce collectors or by graziers. Severe crown fires are very rare, but the ground fires are so frequent that they have caused extreme deficiency of natural regeneration and young crop in the forests.

The chief source of danger to the forests is fire and the hazards of fire are greater in the summer season because the undergrowth when dry, along with the leaf litter, dry and dead wood and other forest rubbish become very inflammable. The forest fires of 1949, which flared up over half the forest area and the spontaneous fire, which engulfed the Bandhpada hills in the Bardipada range in 1952 took toll of 15 lives in addition to the damage done to the forest. Among these were persons who had climbed trees to escape from fire, were trapped and burnt.

After Independence and more particularly after the formation of Gujarat State, much has been done by way of protection of forests from fire in the district. The total forest area in the district is about 1,708·23 sq. kms. In other words 95 per cent of the total land area in the district is under forests. The terrain of this tract is very hilly and conditions during summer are very dry. All these factors render these forests very vulnerable to fire. The forests in Dangs on the other hand are very valuable and contribute over 50 per cent of the total forest revenue of the State. It is, therefore, very essential to protect these valuable forests from fires. Several fire protection measures were taken in the past. These measures are continued and several others are introduced to eliminate the fire hazard. The following measures are being taken for prevention and control of fires in the Dangs.

(1) For quick relay of information in respect of occurrence of fires and to rush help of men and material to the affected sites, a system of wireless transmission sets and vehicles (the Walkie Talkie Wireless sets)

is in operation. Under this system, one wireless control station at Ahwa, Divisional Headquarters, and five sub-stations in the field at Range Headquarters have been established. Messages, regarding the occurrence of fire received at the sub-stations, are transmitted to the control station. On receipt of the message, immediate action is taken to send help to the affected area. A jeep fitted with wireless set is sent to the spot. Messages about the progress achieved in controlling the fire are received every now and then through this mobile wireless set. This system is being gradually strengthened and improved. Addition of more wireless units and connecting watch towers with wireless sets is under consideration.

(2) Twenty-three fire stations which are situated on the tops of high hills, each commanding considerable forest area round about, are maintained in the hot season. These fire stations are manned by fire watchers, equipped with drums, flags, etc. These stations serve the purpose of locating the fires and relaying information to the nearby forest subordinates and villagers and finally to the wireless stations to rush men and material to the site of fire for extinguishing it.

(3) As already said these forests are very vulnerable to fire and once the fire gets started it spreads very quickly. To prevent quick spreading and to localise fire in a small area, a system of external and internal fire lines is in vogue. External forest boundaries, all compartment boundaries, strips of forest area along all roads and boundaries of all young plantations are treated as fire lines of varying widths. These fire lines are cleared of ground vegetation and fire traced every year in winter.

(4) A set of fire registers and fire-maps are maintained with a view to know the steps which are effective in preventing fires and areas which are more vulnerable in this respect.

(5) A set of Fire Rules prescribed in 1939 are still being enforced, as they are found very useful.

(6) There is a practice of giving in the Dangi Darbar rewards to the village Patils, Karbharies and other villagers, who render outstanding help in fire protection. This serves as a useful incentive in securing help in bringing fires under control.

Game Laws and Preservation of Wild Life

As stated before, the district of Dangs is a hilly country with difficult terrain and the richest forests. Till 1948, it was almost isolated from the rest of the country. Prior to its merger in the Bombay State, the Dangs forests were very rich in wild life-both, big and small and it was fairly well preserved. Wild animals like tiger (*Panthera tigris*), panther (*Panthera*

pardus), bear (*Melursus ursinus* Shaw), sambhar (*Cervus unicolor* Kerr), chital (*Axis axis*), bhekhar (*Cervulas muntjac*), wild pig (*Sus cristatus*), etc., were plentiful. Among the birds, green pigeon, jungle fowl, partridge, etc., were quite frequently seen. The situation has, however, completely changed after Independence. There has been ruthless destruction of wild life both by people from outside and also by local Dangis.

There are large number of crop protection licenses issued to the Dangi cultivators. Most of these weapons are the prime cause of heavy poaching and destruction of wild life in the tract. Herbivorous animals and table birds have been systematically sought after and killed. Tigers have become very rare and panthers and bears are less common. Government, therefore, thought of giving effective protection to the vanishing wild life before their total extinction.

Some measures to prevent poaching of a game have already been taken. Part of the division comprising most of the continuous belt of the reserved forest in the north is declared as closed area. Checking gates are provided on important roads at strategic points of entry into the Dangs. On the recommendation of the State Wild Life Advisory Board, it was proposed to constitute Purna Wild Life Sanctuary of about 200 sq. kms. in the northern Dangs. The main objects in establishing sanctuary are as follows :

(1) to provide special and complete protection to wild animals and birds in the sanctuary.

(2) to provide facilities for research and study of habits of wild animals in their natural habitat,

(3) to provide recreation facilities to the visitors and naturalists, to observe wild life throughout the year, and

(4) to conduct experiments so far as introduction of exotic wild life in the sanctuary is concerned.

The scheme provides for establishment of necessary check posts to curb the poaching of wild life, to construct anicuts in order to provide water at short distances all the year round, to construct watch towers, to observe the game and to establish artificial salt licks in the area to attract the wild life to a particular place. The work has already been initiated in this respect.

Fruit Trees

Orchards and plantations have not developed in the Dangs due to lack of irrigation facilities. The fruits grown in the district are mango, guava and citrus (lemons).

Mango—Several varieties of mangoes are grown in some parts of the district; but these are mainly local varieties. The improved species of mangoes are grown in Government Nursery, Bhavandagad and Taluka Seed Farm, Daodahad. They are "Banarasi Langda" and "Hafus". The nursery at Bhavandagad prepares a number of grafts of these varieties every year and distributes them among the Dangis.

Guava—The fruit is specially grown in Government Research Farm, Rambhas. The variety of guava grown in the farm is known as "Dholka Guava". Some of the cultivators also grow this type of variety.

Citrus—Among the citrus fruits, the lemon is the main variety. "Kagdi Lime" is grown by the cultivators in their kitchen gardens. It is not grown on a large scale.

Papaya, banana and *chiku* are also grown for consumption and not for market. "Washington" and "Honey Dew" are the chief varieties of *papaya* fruit.

FAUNA

DOMESTIC ANIMALS

In view of the hilly and forest character of the district and the general backwardness of the Dangis, the types of cattle reared in the district are of inferior quality. The type of the cattle in the district is non-descript. The chief domestic animals are cows, bullocks, buffaloes, sheep, goats, horses, ponies and donkies. These domestic animals are reared by the Dangi cultivators in large number. Each cultivator in the district has nearly 6 to 7 cows and 1 to 2 pairs of bullocks according to his financial position. The bullocks and he-buffaloes are used as draught animals in the district. Cultivators employ them in ploughing operations during monsoon and in transporting products from the forest areas within the Dangs district to other centres in winter season.

Though buffaloes are valued more than cows, the Dangis prefer cows both for milk and supply of draught power in the form of bullocks. Similarly in view of their negligible maintenance cost goats are reared in a large number for milk and meat. The bullocks and he-buffaloes are put to strenuous work. They are allowed to feed with hay, *guwar*, *udid*, etc. It may be pointed out that maintenance of domestic animals in the district is not expensive since grass and other cattle-feed are available in plenty from the forest. However, in monsoon people have to maintain these animals even by buying fodder from the market. So far as the price of the domestic animals is concerned a cow costs from Rs. 150 to Rs. 200, while in the case of a bullock the cost varies approximately from Rs. 350 to Rs. 400, and buffaloes cost about Rs. 300 to Rs. 400.

Poultry

Poultry is very popular with the Dangis and is useful for sacrificial purposes. Moreover, the importance of poultry also increases, as it provides meat and eggs for food. All Dangi cultivators keep poultry of *deshi* varieties. The eggs produced are sold at the rate of 20 paise each and the birds at the rate of Rs. 3 to Rs. 4 each. The poultry is mainly reared for home consumption and not for the market. Similar is the case with livestock also.

In conclusion, it may be pointed out that better breed of cattle requires to be introduced in the district since the cattle of the Dangi breed are inferior in milk and draught power. It has been suggested that Gir breeding should be introduced for better breed of cattle. Gir heifers and bulls are being supplied for the milk and draught purposes. The Kankarej breed is not desirable as it is only suitable for draught purposes.

Wild Life

"Wild life in India has passed from the original semi-mythological phase in which protection was afforded to it by religion and superstition, through a stage of exploitation, which, starting with the protection of animals and birds for hunting, developed into economic exploitation of a gradually intensified nature, to the modern concept of balanced use involving both conservation and control. Concurrently with the gradual retreat of wild life before the opening up of the country, came the increased use of modern fire-arms. The war and post-war years witnessed a great acceleration of these processes, when large armies of generally trigger-happy soldiery were encamped all over India and Grow More Food Campaigns became the order of the day. Wild life has received during this relatively brief period a greater set-back than in the previous one hundred years and to-day stands in perilous state indeed. The present phase of wild life may, therefore, be described as one of enlightened exploitation combined with conservation on the one hand and control on the other."[1]

The Dangs district is a hilly and forest area, which provides a suitable ecological habitat for the wild life. Forest provides the wild animals like tigers, leopards, bears, etc., natural cover, food and water for their sustenance. Two decades ago the tigers, leopards, bears, etc., were in abundance in the Dangs forests, but owing to the unauthorised killings by poachers their number is gradually going down. For preservation of wild life, the State Government has set-up a sanctuary in the forest area traversed by the Purna river in the north of the district.

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1. Stracey P. D., *Wild Life Management in India*, Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Government of India, 1966.

Tiger (*Panthera tigris*)—A few tigers are found in the Bardipada and Bheskatri ranges of the Dangs forests. It hunts game of all kinds but generally preys on deer, wild pigs, bears, porcupines, etc. It usually rests in dense tall grass, bamboos or other dense shrubs. It is also frequently sighted when it prowls about for prey in the jungle. The tiger measures 10′ to 12′ in length and is superior in strength and agility to the leopard or the panther also found in this district.

Panther (*Panthera pardus*)—Though the number has considerably gone down the panthers are not restricted to heavy covers like tigers. They generally live on deers, monkeys, porcupines, etc. The panthers living on the fringes of villages prey mainly on domesticated animals, goats and quite commonly on dogs.

Sloth Bear (*Melursus ursinus*)—This species is also found in Bardipada and Bheskatri ranges. Their main food consists of fruits and insects. The bears also knock down the honey combs.

Wild Boar (*Sus scrofa*)—Plenty of wild boars are found in Dangs forests. They generally live in bush jungle and swampy areas. They are omnivorous living on crops, roots, tubers, insects, snakes, etc. They are very destructive animals to crops.

Hyaena (*Hyaena hyaena*)—This species is found in almost all parts of the district. They have got a dog-like build massive head and weak hindquarter. Their colour varies from cream buff to grey. They are by nature a scavanger animal. Occasionally, sheep and goats and quite often stray dogs are carried away by them.

Sambhar (*Cervus unicolor*)—Though the number has been reduced to considerable extent, the *sambhars* are found all over the forests. Their food consists of grass, leaves and various kinds of wild fruits. They cause damage to the forests by browsing the leaves and the leafy tender shoots.

Chital (*Axis axis*)—The *chitals* are always seen in herds. They do not shun the proximity of the village. They also mainly depend on grass, leaves and various kinds of wild fruits.

Barking Deer (*Muntiacus muntjak*)—Barking deer are common and found in the forests even in day time. They are seen singly or in pairs. Their food consists of various kinds of leaves, grass and wild fruits. Their call from a distance sounds much like the bark of a dog.

Monkey—Monkeys are found in large numbers. They generally feed on various kinds of fruits and cause damage to the plants by breaking the leading shoots.

Porcupines (*Hystrix indica*)—They form a separate family of rodents. Their necks and shoulders are crowned with a creast of bristles 6" to 12" long. The quills on the back are very profuse. Grains, fruits and roots are their main food. Lot of damage is caused by them to young plants by stripping off the bark, eating the tuberous fishy roots, etc.

Birds

The bird life of the district is colourful and rich. Different birds are seen in different seasons. The forests of Dangs are repository of migratory birds visiting India from far off climes and different countries. Among the different species, mention may be made of wild pheasants, wild fowls, partridge, owls, pigeons, etc. The birds and colourful butterflies along with the glow-worms enhance the beauty of the forests.

A comprehensive list of 102 birds so far noticed in the district is given at the end in Appendix IV. Some of the important birds of the district are described below :

The White-necked Stork—Ciconia episcopus episcopus (*Boddaert*)—The bird's height is about 3 feet. The bird is a glistening black stork with conspicuous white neck and black skull cap. It is seen standing montionless on one leg as if absorbed in meditation. Sometimes, it is seen stalking about in company of other birds in search of food. Its food consists of frogs, reptiles, crabs, mollnscas and large insects.

The Indian Black Ibis—Pseudibis papillosus (Timminck)- The size of the bird is about that of a large domestic hen. It is a black bird with slender curlew like-curved bill, a white patch near the shoulder and brickred legs. Though frequently found near river, its presence is not linked up with that of water. The bird along with other birds flies in 'V' formation.

The Red Spurfowl—Galloperdix spadicea spadicea (*Gmelin*)—The bird's size is smaller than village hen. The hen differs from the cock in being brown or chestnut above with fine black bars and freckles. The cock has 2 to 4 pointed spurs on each leg. The hen usually has one spur on one leg and two on other leg. It is reluctant to fly unless hard-pressed. For a speedy escape, it depends upon its legs.

The Grey Junglefowl—Gallus sonnerati (Temm)—The size of the bird is that of a village hen. The male is generally grey with metallic black sickle-shaped tail. The hen is white breasted with blackish streaks. Its diet consists of grain, shoots and berries. It also eats termites and other insects. The bird is very shy and timid in the presence of man.

The crowing is usually preceded by a loud flapping of wings and is answered one by one by all other cocks in the neighbourhood.

The Crested Serpent Eagle—Spilornis chilla minor (Hume)—The bird's size is larger than that of a kite. It is a handsome eagle with a prominent black and white crest on back of a head, seen very fully when erected. The underparts are brown. When the bird flies, a white bar across the tail and two similar bars on each of the broad and round wings are seen. Its food consists mainly of frogs, lizards, rats and snakes.

The Paradise Flycatcher—Terpsiphone paradisi paradisi (Linnaeus)—The size of its body excluding tail ribbons is that of a bulbul. An adult male is silvery white with two long ribbonlike feathers or "Streamers" in tail and matallic black head. Females are chestnut above and white below just like bulbul. The movements of male with streamers in tail trailing behind or his graceful undulating flight from one tree to another presents a fascinating spectacle. Its food consists of flies and moths.

The Peafowl—Pavo cristatus (Linnaeus)—The peacock's size is that of a vulture excluding the train of the male which is 3 to 4 feet long. The gorgeous ocellated train of the adult male is not its tail but abnormally lengthened upper tail coverts. The female is smaller, lacks the train and is a sober mottled brown with some metallic green on her lower neck. She is crested like the cock. The peafowl is protected by religion and hence is found in abundance. It lives about human habitations and feeds in the fields, digging up newly sown grain or tearing up tender shoots with impunity. It also destroys insects and reptiles including snakes.

Peacock has been the most popular and widely accepted theme of expression in classical literature and folk-lore as well as in architecture because of its innate beauty of colours and form. The sweeping and graceful colours of its neck, body and plumage, artistic features, its melodious voice and its unique dance has endeared peacock to the people of India and made it the "National Bird". There will hardly be a village which has not a peacock as one of its denizens. Its feathers are used for decoration. It moves in a small group.

The Large Indian Parakeet—Psittacula eupatria nipalensis (Hodgson)—The bird's size is about that of a pigeon but more slender than it with a long pointed tail. It is a large grass-green parakeet with the typical short massive, deeply hooked red bill and maroon patch on each shoulder. The rose-pink and black collar of the male is absent in female. Its food consists of fruits, grains, etc. It causes considerable damage to orchards and crops.

The Blossom-headed Parakeet—Psittacula cyanocephala bengalensis (Forst)—The size of the bird is about that of myna, slenderer and with

a long pointed tail. It can be distinguished from other species by its smaller size, bluish red head and maroon shoulder patches. In the female, the head is bluish grey and the shoulder patches are absent.

The Common Hawk Cuckoo—Cuculus varius varius (Vahl)—The bird's size is about that of a pigeon, slenderer and with long tail. It is ash-grey above and below, whitish cross-barred with brown colour. Sexes are similar. It is mostly silent during winter months, but with the approach of hot weather, its calls are heard. The loud screaming call has been aptly called as brain fever. This is repeated 5 or 6 times in succession, rising to a feverish pitch and breaking off abruptly. Its main food is hairy caterpillars and soft-bodied insects. It also eats berries and wild figs.

The Indian Great Horned Owl—Bubo bubo bengalensis (Franklin)—The owl's size is about that of pariah kite. It is a large brown and fulvous owl streaked and mottled with tawny-buff and black with two conspicuous black aigrettes or horns or ear-tufts above the head. It is met with singly or in pairs in rocky ravines and steep-sided outscored water courses. Though chiefly nocturnal this owl may be seen frequently on the move till after the sun is well up. Both the sexes are similar. Its food consists of small mammals, birds, lizards, reptiles, large insects and crabs. It keeps a constant check upon the destructive rodents and is, therefore, of great economic value. Despite this, it is considered a bird of ill-omen by the people.

The Common Indian Nightjar—Caprimulgus asiaticus asiaticus (Latham)— The bird's size is like that of myna. It is a soft-plumaged, mottled, grey, brown or buff bird with black-streaks above forming a complicated camouflaging pattern. White patches on wings are conspicuous during flight. Both the sexes are similar. The bird is entirely crepuscular and nocturnal in habits. Its call is also peculiar *chuk-chuk-chuk-chukr-r-r-* and the two birds engage in a duet answering each other for a considerable period. Its food consists of beetles, moths and other insects captured on the wings.

The Brownheaded Storkbilled Kingfisher—Pelargopsis capensis gurial (Pearson)—The size of the kingfisher is slightly smaller than that of a pigeon. This kingfisher, however, is easily distinguished from other brightly coloured kingfishers by its large size and enormous pointed, compressed and blood-red bill. The bird inhabits well-watered places. It sits for hours on a branch of a tree near a pool and catches any fish that shows up near the surface. Sometimes it disappears under water for an instant and comes out with a fish in its mouth. When disturbed, the bird flies off the tree with loud screams which continue for a long time.

The Grey Hornbill—Tockus birostris (Scopoli)—The size of the bird is that of a pariah kite. It is a clumsy, slaty grey bird with an enormous

black and white curved bill. Tail is long and graduated. Both the sexes are alike. The bird is found in grooves of old trees like Mango, Banyan, Pipal, etc. The flight of the hornbill is typical. It is laboured, undulating and noisy consisting of a few rapid wing strokes followed by an interval of gliding. Its diet consists of figs of Banyan and Pipal trees and large insects and lizards.

The Indian Common Wood Shrike—Tephrodornis pondicerianus pondicerianus (Gmelin)—The bird's size is about that of a bulbul. It is a plain greyish brown bird with a dark stripe below the eye and a distinct whitish supercilium. Its bill is hook tipped and it has a short square tail. The bird hops or flits among the branches. In company the birds follow one another from tree to tree, calling in rich liquid whistling notes *weet-weet* succeeded by a quick interrogative *whi-whi-whi-whi*. Its food consists of beetles, grubs, spiders, caterpillars and other insects. Insects are captured occasionally in the air by means of wings.

The Deccan Scimitar Babbler—Pomatorhinus horsfieldi horsfieldi (Sykes)—The bird's size is slightly smaller than that of myna. It is a dark-brown babbler with white throat and breast. a prominent white eye-brow and curved pointed yellow bill. Both the sexes are similar. The bird generally moves in small flocks. The members of flock maintain contact with each other by gurgling calls. When alarmed, the bird hops along.

The Bombay Babbler—Turdoides somervillei somervillei (Sykes)—The size of the bird is like that of myna. It is a earthy-brown bird of untidy appearance and a longish tail that gives the impression of being loosely stuck into the body. This bird is generally found in flocks of about half a dozen and hence its popular name is 'Seven Sisters'.

Its food consists of spiders, cockroaches and other insects and larvae. It is inordinately fond of flower nectar of the coral and silk cotton trees and so does considerable service in cross pollinating the blossoms.

The Tailor Bird—Orthotomus sutorius guzurata (Latham)—The bird is smaller than the sparrow. It is a small restless olive-green bird with whitish underparts, a rust coloured crown, and elongated middle feather of the tail which is habitually cocked. Sexes are similar.

The nest of this bird is a remarkable structure. It is a rough cup of soft fibres, cotton wool placed in a funnel formed by folding over and stitching a broad leaf along its edges. The stitching material is cotton or vegetable clearly knotted at the ends to prevent sewing getting undone.

Blackcapped Black-bird—Turdus simillimus mahrattensis (Kinnear and Whistler)—The bird's size is about that of myna. It is a plain grey-brown

bird with a black cap, orange-yellow eyelids, legs and bill. The female is generally more ashy above and paler below with the cap brown.

The bird is silent in cold weather. In hot season its quickly repeated *chuk-chuk-chuk* is heard. The imitation of calls of other birds are frequently interwoven in its vocal efforts. Its flight is swift without gliding.

Malabar Whistling Thrush—Myiophoneus horsfield (Vigors)—The bird is slightly smaller than the pigeon. It is blue-black thrush with patches of glistening cobalt blue on forehead and shoulders. Sexes are alike.

The bird is very handsome. With the approach of the breeding season, it develops a rich, remarkably human whistling song and rambles aimlessly up and down and hence its popular name is whistling school boy. The bird thrives in captivity and becomes tame if captured young.

The Velvet fronted Nuthatch—Sitta frontalis frontalis (Swainson)—The bird is slightly smaller than the sparrow. It is purplish-blue above and greyish-lilac below, its forehead is velvety jet black and chin and throat are whitish. The female differs from the male in having no black stripe above and behind the eye. The bill is red. Like the woodpecker, it claims and taps away on the park to dislodge insect prey. Its call is a loud cheeping whistle.

The Thickbilled Flowerpecker—Dicaeum agile agile (Tickell)—The bird is smaller than the sunbird. It is a restless olive brown bird with greyish-white underparts and with short, slender, slightly curved, flesh-coloured bill.

Its existence is bound up by presence of orchids Loronthus and Viscum. Its food consists mainly of flower nectar and berries of these parasites.

The Purple Sunbird—Nectarinia asiatica asiatica (Latham) The bird is smaller than the sparrow In non-breeding plumage, the male is like female-brown to olive brown above, pale dull yellow below--but with darker wings and a broad black streak running down the middle of breast. Its bill is curved and long. It flies restlessly from one flower to other in search of nectar which is a main food of the bird. It affects gardens, groves, etc., and is helpful for cross-pollination.

The Indian Rosefinch—Erythrina erythrina roseatus (Blyth)—The bird is a bit larger than the house sparrow. Both in the rose coloured male and the brownish coloured female, the heavy conical bill and the slightly forked tail are conspicuous features. They are found in small flocks. Its diet consists of flower buds of Lantana, banyan figs and bamboo seeds. The nectar of Butea and other wild flowers is eaten and so helpful in cross-pollinating them.

The Malabar Racket-tailed Drongo—Dicrurus paradiseus malabaricus (Latham)—The bird's size is like that of the myna but with outer tail-feathers some 15 inches long. It is a glossy jet-black drongo with conspicuously tuffed forehead and two long, thin, spatula-tipped streamers in the tail. Sexes are alike.

The bird is very noisy and has a loud call *what-what-what.* It moreover imitates to perfection the calls of many birds. It makes an amusing pet. Its food consists of insects of various kinds which are either caught on wings or picked off the branches in a graceful swoop.

The Northern Tree-Pie—Crypsirina vagabunde pallida (Blyth)—The bird is like that of myna with a 12 inches long tail. The colour of the body is chestnut brown with sooty head and neck. During the course of its flight, the broad black tips of the longest tail feathers are very conspicuous. The flight is undulating, swift, noisy, and flapping, followed by a short glide. Sexes are similar. It is omnivorous.

The Marsh Harrier—Circus aeruginosus aeruginosus (Linnaeus)—The bird's size is slightly smaller than that of pariah kite. It is a slender pale ashy-grey hawk with black tips to its long narrow, pointed wings especially conspicuous in flight. The female is umber brown with a buff-colour behind the ear coverts and across the throat. The bill is very pointed and curved. The bird is generally silent. It eats lizards, frogs, reptiles and insects.

The Central Indian Iora—Aegithina tiphia humei (Stuart and Baker)—The bird's size is like that of a sparrow. The sexes are different. The male is jet-black and canary-yellow titlike bird. The female is greenish yellow. In non-breeding seasons, the male is just like female. It is generally seen in pairs hunting for their prey caterpillar, insects, etc.

Its nest has a peculiar structure. It is compact little cup of soft grass and root fibres neatly rounded off at the bottom.

The Black-winged Kite—Elanus caeruleus vociferus (Latham)—The size of the bird is that of the jungle crow. It is ashy grey above and white below with black lines above the eyes and black patches on shoulders. Sexes are similar.

The bird is a very good scavanger like vulture and kite. It readily and effectively disposes of carcasses of cattle and other refuse.

Snakes

With thick forest growth and heavy rainfall, the Dangs district is replete with reptiles. The district is ideally situated ecologically for habita-

tion of some of the common poisonous and non-poisonous snakes of India. Among these snakes, mention may be made of huge pythons, which can swallow a human being alive. Among other various species of snakes, king cobra, *kamalia* and *fodchi* are poisonous and are in great demand by the Haffkine Institute of Bombay where vaccine is prepared out of the poison of snakes. This vaccine is effectively administered in the case of snake-bites.

The following main types of poisonous and non-poisonous snakes are noticed in the district. Among the poisonous snakes can be counted cobras, kraits and vipers. Among the non-poisonous snakes fall rat snake, python, sand boa, wolf snake, etc. They vary in size, shape and colour. Generally, they hide themselves in earth-crevices and vegetation. Some of them are nocturnal in habits. Generally, they feed on insects, worms and small mammals. Poisonous snakes need timely medical treatment. Every year number of deaths occur in the district on account of snake-bites. The main reason for this is that Dangi people have to live in forests where immediate medical treatment is not available. However, in most of the cases when patient is given antivenom therapy, he survives. The total number of persons treated for snake-bites for the years 1966, 1967 and 1968 were 30, 15 and 28, respectively. The details about the snakes in the district are given category-wise below.

I. Non-poisonous Snakes

Family-*Colubridae*

Rat Snake (*Ptyas mucosus*)—The snake is called a rat snake as it is found to control the rodent growth. It is found all over the State including the district of Dangs and grows to a length of about 2·25 metres. It is known as *dhaman* in Gujarati. This widely distributed type is dirty yellow coloured with tips of black scales. It is timid and often stays on trees. It feeds on rats, mammals, frogs, lizards and even snakes. It is observed that this snake when squeezed gives a guttural noise like that of a kite. In spite of its ferocious look, it can be domesticated and handled without being beaten.

Racer (*Coluber ventromaculatus*)—The length of this snake is 1,090 mm. (1·09 metre) in male and 1,000 mm. (1 metre) in female. It is grey dorsally, with a dorsal series of black cross-bars or spots restricted to scale borders. It has a series of finer spots at the lateral sides, alternating with cross-bars. The snake is ventrally yellowish and its neck is with a black stripe and a black bar below the eye. Its pupils are round and the head is distinct from neck.

The snake is a vicious one, when disturbed, erects the head and flattens the area behind the neck. This quality it shares with another snake the

Banded Racer *Coluber Fasciolatus* which is found in the western parts of India, Nepal and West Bengal. It feeds on lizards, frogs and birds, and is oviparous.

Wolf Snake (*Oligodon venustus*)—The length of this snake is 450 mm. in male and smaller in female. The snake is of grey colour with a brown tinge and paired blackish spots having a whitish border. These often look like cross-bars of a krait. Laterally, it is with yellowish spots and ventrals are white.

It feeds on small rodents, lizards and birds and even insects. This snake is found in gardens and round about houses preferably coming out in the evenings. In the semi-darkness of the night, it is often mistaken for a krait. The snake is a non-poisonous and harmless. It is of oviparous type.

FAMILY : *Boidae*

Indian Python (*Python molurus*)—This is commonly known as *ajgar*. In Gujarat, the people are familiar with it because it is frequently carried by snake-charmers for begging money. It is the largest snake found in India. Its maximum length is up to 7 metres. It can climb trees and other high structures and can even swim. It is brown above with Rhomboid dark grey edged spots on the body. It feeds on birds, reptiles, small mammals, and other creatures too. Though it is a lethargic snake, at the sight of the prey, it becomes very active, hurling its head at the body of the prey and strangulating the victim with the coils of its muscular body. It is observed that even large animals like goats, boars, and other similar one are strangled to death and swallowed by the python.

Sand Boa (*Eryx conicus*)—The length of male sand boa is 480 mm. and that of female is twice. It is a pinkish grey snake with deep brown irregular patches all over the body. The patches are edged by black borders. Its head is not distinguishable from the neck. The eyes are very small with a vertical pupil.

It remains hidden in sandy soils. It often prefers to burrow in soft areas lying partly hidden where the body colour is in keeping with the surroundings. It feeds on frogs, mice, lizards, etc. It can be distinguished by its blunt tail which looks like the head end, the eyes being small and the fact that it sometimes crawls back, as such it is often mistaken to be a two-headed snake, that is a snake having heads at two ends. This is not true. It is oviparous, laying eggs during summer months.

John's Sand Boa (*Eryx johnii*)—This snake is very common in the district as also in many parts of Gujarat and is more docile than sand boa

(*Eryx conicus*). It is chocolate in colour and belongs to python family. It lies buried in soil and is called John's sand boa. This snake is much longer than sand boa. The males of the species are smaller than the females. The tail of this snake is blunt. Its chief food consists of frogs, mice, lizards, etc.

II. Poisonous Snakes

Family : *Elapidae*

Cobra (*Naja naja*)—The cobra is known as *nag* in Gujarati and is the most dreaded snake in Gujarat. The head of this snake is not very distinct from the neck. The neck region is dilatable, the ribs being elongate. The expansion of this region forms the hood which bears on the upper side a binocoellate mark which some people call a mark of spectacle or the figure of ten. There is a white band in the region, where the hood touches the body region. There may be no binocoellate mark at all. The under side of the hood bears two dark round spots running to four scales surrounded by white lateral borders.

The snake is brown or dark in colour. Its eyes are round, equal in diameter to its distance from the mouth. The length of the snake is about 1·8 metres.

This snake is seen in the district. It is normally seen in the open in the evening or early morning. In old thatched roofed houses, it has been seen under roof where it may have gone in search of its prey.

In very old buildings, it has been noticed to remain in crevices, presumably in the cool dark places where rats are also available.

In the district the snake is worshipped. On *nagpanchami* day, it is taken from house to house, offered milk and money collected. Many old buildings are believed to be inhabited by a cobra which is 'guarding the wealth'. Under pipal trees are kept images resembling a cobra hood and many a lady circumambulates such trees for fertility.

It normally raises the hood about 2½ feet from the ground. The poison of this snake is primarily neurotoxic. There is less pain, slight swelling, irritation and death is due to respiratory failure. If a sufficient amount of venom has been injected by this snake, the only remedy is antivenin.

Common Krait (*Bungarus caeruleus*)—The common krait is a snake of plains. The length of the snake is about 1·5 metres. It is steel blue and shining in colour wih enlarged hexagonal scales on the dorsal side. The head of this snake is not distinct from the neck. Its eyes are moderate or small with round pupils. There are rows of paired white stripes across the

body. The snake is nocturnal in habit and lives in cracks in walls or in heaps of stones or bricks.

Its poison is neurotoxic. There is not much pain at the site of the bite but in about an hour the patient feels sleepy and unless an antivenom is given in time and if a lethal dose of venom has been injected, the patient may not survive. This snake not only eats mice but also other snakes too.

Banded Krait (*Bungarus fasciatus*)—The length of this snake is 1·7 metres. Its tail ends bluntly and is swoollen at the tip. This is a beautiful snake having a jet-black 55 mm. wide cross stripe alternating with a deep yellow stripe of the same size on the body. There is a black mark on the neck which is spread upto the eyes. It feeds on other snakes and villagers do not drive it from their farms.

FAMILY : *Viperidae*

Bamboo Pit Viper (*Trimeresurus gramineus*)—As the district abounds in bamboo forests, this snake is commonly noticed. Its length is about 750 mm. This verdant green snake has a triangular head and three yellowish white longitudinal lines on the body, one vertical and two lateral. Its prehensile tail is yellowish or reddish mottled with dark hues and greyish, with some grey spots ventrally. Its head is with blackish spots on imbricate scales and a speckled line from eye to neck. The eyes of this snake are with golden iris and a black vertical pupil.

It prefers the bamboo vegetation or grass on which it is often seen reclining during day-time. Its colour harmonises with the surroundings. It is sluggish, but when roused is capable of hissing and snapping at the victim.

The food of this snake consists of small mammals, lizards or birds. It strikes the victim and holds it till it is dead. This is a viviparous poisonous snake, whose venom is probably vasotoxic.

Side Winder or Saw Scaled Viper (*Echis carinatus*)—The size of the side winder is about 550 mm. This small poisonous snake has a head that is triangular and bears a typical white arrow mark on a brown background. Its body is greyish brown with a series of pale marks forming a curve over the body. The under surface is white with black spots at the two ends of the scales. It is often met with in a double curved position with head in the centre and moving as a side winder and making a sawing noise by rubbing the scales. The food of the snake consists of frogs, lizards, snakes, scorpions, and a large number of insects. On being disturbed, it strikes, rising upto a height of about eight inches from the ground. Even while moving, the head is often flipped for a strike. Being small and lying under

stones and in soil and also because of the colouration being akin to surroundings, the pepole get bitten before they are aware of the presence of the snake.

It is a pretty poisonous snake, but the amount of venom given at a time is not sufficiently lethal to man. There are always complications after a bite. There is swelling, oozing and within 24 to 36 hours the man starts bleeding from gums, kidneys, nose, etc. The death is due to these complications which kill a man after a number of days.

Russell's Viper (*Vipera russelli*)—The *chital,* as it is known in Gujarati is also one of the deadliest poisonous snakes. Its length is 1,600 mm. in female, males are slightly longer. This is quite a common snake and is often 150 mm. thick and is heard to hiss loudly and continuously. It is brown with deep elliptical patches that run in three rows. The head is triangular and the head scales on top are very small, imbricate and keeled. The eyes have a white border with golden iris and an elliptical pupil.

The snake is found in rocky and bushy regions where the colouration on the skin is in keeping with the surroundings. It remains coiled with the head in the centre of the coil. With the least disturbance, the tongue quivers, the head is raised, the body swells rhythmically and the snake hisses loudly and continuously. It can strike even from behind.

The chief food of this snake comprises small mammals like rats and mice. Sometimes lizards and birds are also eaten. The snake is viviparous.

FISH

The reservoir constructed at Saputara for supply of fresh water to the hill station is the only suitable water sheet for the development of fishery. This reservoir is having maximum water spread of 40 acres and minimum of 13 acres. Situated at the height of 2,817 feet and having a temperature ranging from 62°F to 90°F, this reservoir is suitable for stocking the fishes on the hilly regions as well as that of the plains. A scheme is being prepared by the Department of Fisheries for the development of fisheries in Saputara, wherein it is envisaged to stock the reservoir with fishes like mirror carp, scale carp, common carp, mahshir, catla, rohu, mrigal, etc. It is also proposed to set up a fish-breeding centre—to ensure regular supply of fish-seed for stocking the reservoir. Besides providing scope for introducing sport fishing, as in the case of the Ootty Lake, the scheme provides for supply of fish to the local Adivasis and the visiting tourists. The annual production from the reservoir is estimated at about 10 tonnes of fish annually from the third year of stocking, the value of which is estimated at Rs. 15,000.

CLIMATE

The climate of this district with a hilly terrain, is characterised by general dryness except during the monsoon season. The year may be divided into four seasons. The cold seasons from December to February is followed by the hot season from March to May. The period from June to September constitutes the south-west monsoon season. October and November may be termed the post-monsoon or retreating monsoon season.

Rainfall—Records of rainfall in the district are available for only two stations for 35 years in the case of one and 63 years for the other. The details of rainfall at these two stations and for the district as a whole are given in Statements I·1 and I·2. The average annual rainfall in the district is 1998·8 mm. (78·69″). The rainfall in the district decreases from the west towards the east. About 95 per cent of the annual rainfall in the district is received during the south-west monsoon months June to September, July being the rainiest month. The variation in the annual rainfall is not large. In the 48 year period 1903 to 1950 the highest annual rainfall amounting to 141 per cent of the normal occurred in 1944 The lowest annual rainfall which was only 45 per cent of the normal occurred in 1918. In the same period the annual rainfall in the district was less than 80 per cent of the normal in 17 years. Five consecutive years of annual rainfall less than 80 per cent of the normal occurred once and two consecutive years twice. It will be seen from Statement I·2 that the annual rainfall in the district was between 1600 mm. and 2300 mm. (62·99″ and 90·55″) in 23 years out of 48.

On an average there are 78 rainy days (i. e., days with rainfall of 2·5 mm.—10 cents or more) in a year in the district. This number varies from 82 at Ahwa to 75 at Waghai

The heaviest rainfall in 24 hours recorded at any station in the district was 424·4 mm. (16·71″) at Waghai on 1941 July 2.

Temperature—There is no meteorogical observatory in the district, having meteorological data (except for rainfall) for a sufficiently long period, as such, normals based on such data are not available. The description which follows is, therefore, based on the records of the observatories in the neighbouring districts. Temperatures begin to increase from about the latter half of February. May is the hottest month with the mean daily maximum temperature at about 40°C (104·0°F) and the mean daily minimum at about 26°C (78·8°F). The heat during the summer is intense and on some days temperatures may go above 44°C (111·2°F). With the onset of the monsoon by about the second week of June there is appreciable drop in temperatures. After the withdrawal of the monsoon by about the end of September there is an increase in the day temperature but the

nights become progressively cooler. After November both the day and night temperatures drop rapidly. December is the coldest month with the mean daily maximum temperature of about 30°C (86·0°F) and a mean daily minimum at 16°C (60·8°F). In association with passing western disturbances across north India during the cold season, spells of colder weather occur and the minimum temperature occasionally drops down to about 4°C or 5°C (39·2° or 41·0°F).

Humidity—During the monsoon season relative humidity is generally high, exceeding 70 per cent. After the withdrawal of the south-west monsoon the relative humidity decreases. The summer season is the driest part of the year when the relative humidities in the afternoons are often less than 30 per cent.

Cloudiness—In the monsoon season the skies are mostly heavily clouded or overcast. In the rest of the year skies are generally clear or lightly clouded.

Winds—Winds are generally light with some strengthening in force during the latter part of the summer and monsoon seasons. In May and the south-west monsoon season winds are generally from directions between south and west. In the post monsoon season winds are variable in direction in the mornings and north-easterly to easterly in the afternoons. In the winter and early part of the summer season winds are from directions between south-west and north-west, with northerly and north-easterly winds blowing on some afternoons.

Special Weather Phenomena—Some of the storms and depressions from the Arabian Sea in the latter half of the summer and in post monsoon seasons affect the district and its neighbourhood causing widespread rain and gusty winds. Thunderstorm occasionally occur in the latter half of the summer and monsoon seasons.

STATEMENTS

STATEMENT

Normals and Extremes

Station	No. of years of data	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Waghai ..	20 (a)	2.0	1.0	0.3	1.3	9.1	245.9	980.9	532.1
	(b)	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.7	8.2	25.5	21.9
Ahwa ..	48 (a)	5.1	1.5	1.8	5.1	12.7	224.0	690.1	481.1
	(b)	0.5	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.8	11.0	24.9	24.6
Dangs (District)	(a)	3.5	1.3	1.1	3.2	10.9	234.9	835.5	506.6
	(b)	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.7	9.6	25.2	23.3

Source :

Deputy Director General of Observatories, (Climatology and Geophysics), Poona.

(a) Normal rainfall in mm. (b) Average number of rainy days (days with rain of 2.5 mm. or more).

* Based on all available data upto 1965.

** Years given in brackets.

I·1

of Rainfall

Sept-ember	Octo-ber	Nov-ember	Dec-ember	Annual	Highest annual rainfall as per cent of Normal and year**	Lowest annual rainfall as per cent of Normal and year**	Heaviest rainfall in 24 hours* Amount (mm.)	Date	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
359.4	56.1	24.9	4.6	2,217.6	130 (1946)	57 (1948)	424.4	1941	July 2
14.3	3.1	1.0	0.3	75.04					
285.2	55.6	15.2	2.5	1,779.9	157 (1944)	50 (1918)	372.4	1904	September 14
14.5	3.3	0.9	0.3	81.8					
322.3	55.9	20.1	3.5	1,998.8	141 (1944)	45 (1918)			
14.4	3.2	0.9	0.3	78.4					

STATEMENT I.2

Frequency of Annual Rainfall in the District (Data 1903-1950)

Range in mm.	No. of years	Range in mm.	No. of years
801-900	1	1801-1900	3
901-1000	0	1901-2000	3
1001-1100	1	2001-2100	1
1101-1200	1	2101-2200	2
1201-1300	3	2201-2300	5
1301-1400	3	2301-2400	2
1401-1500	4	2401-2500	1
1501-1600	4	2501-2600	1
1601-1700	7	2601-2700	3
1701-1800	2	2701-2800	0
		2801-2900	1

NOTE : Data available for 48 years only.

APPENDIX I

Forest Privileges in the District

(A) *Protected Forests*

(1) The use of all roads and foot-paths.

(2) Cultivation of level ground according to the rules in force.

(3) Lopping for rab in accordance with the rules in force.

(4) The use of all kinds of timber for domestic purposes only : provided the Range Forest Officer's verbal permission is taken in each case and a Beat Guard is ordered to hammer mark the stools which must all be cut flush with the ground.

(5) The use of bamboos for domestic purposes and the manufacture of baskets, etc. Culms to be cut by Dangi Natives when they remove bamboos or within 2 inches of the ground. Fees will only be charged on the articles made therefrom when they are sent outside the Dangs.

(6) The use of dead and fallen wood for fuel except Teak, Tannach, Bio and Sissam.

(7) Implements for cutting grass for grazing cattle, not to be brought by herdsmen except cutting sickles.

(8) Collection of Mowhra fruits and roots.

(9) Hunting and fishing (but not poisoning of reserved drinking water, or killing of rats, parrots, or squirrels by smoke or killing of Bison, doe Sambhar, doe Chital, doe Beker, or Nilgai cows).

(10) Collection of honey and wax (provided fire is not used without the local Patel's permission).

N. B.—The firing of protected forest is an offence.

(11) Cutting of bamboos, palas, axles, chaj and baru grasses and removal of other articles specified in the schedule to be paid for at scheduled rates if removed from the Dangs. Stools of poles must be cut according to the level of the ground at once.

APPENDIX I—*contd.*

(B) *Reserved Forests*

(1) Use of all roads and foot-paths.

(2) Grazing for horned cattle, not goats, provided trees and bamboos are not injured. Areas may be temporarily closed for regeneration by Divisional Forest Officer.

(3) Hunting and fishing [provided fire is not used and animals protected under (A) (9) are not killed].

(4) Collection of Mowhra fruits and roots.

(5) Collection of honey and wax, provided fire is used with the written permission of the Ranger only.

(6) The use of bamboos as under (A) (5) in the eastern rounds only.

(7) Poles and axles from the reserves of the western rounds (Stools must be cut flush with the ground at once).

Main lopping rules

(1) In the fields where it is intended to plough and cultivate, only the leading shoot need be kept.

(2) Trees, small branchwood and bamboos felled in clearing land by permission may be used for rab.

(3) Trees on hill slopes and in heavy forest where it is not intended to plough may not be lopped more than two-third distance from the ground.

(4) Green bamboos and whole young trees may not be used for rab.

(5) Tannach and sissam may not be lopped except on cultivated fields. Jungle wood trees should be selected for lopping in preference to Teak.

(6) Fruit and sacred trees may not be lopped.

(7) No one need ask permission to lop. Lopping should be done as early as possible (provided the required fire line around the village has been prepared), so as to get branches with the leaves on.

APPENDIX I—*concld.*

(8) All available cow-dung must be collected for manure and also coarse grass, leaves, reeds, tuar and khurasani stalks, dead bamboos, river shrubs and bor bushes; only when all these sources fail or prove insufficient, trees may be lopped according to the rules in force.

Concession granted for supply of timber to Dangis in the Dangs District.

In the Dangs District the following quantity of Teak timber is given to an individual Dangi free of charge for house construction once in 25 years, provided the person concerned is poor and helpless, and he generally needs the same for his *bona fide* use and that he cannot buy it from his own resources inclusive of his capacity to raise and repay loans within reasonable periods :

Rafters Class II	30	—	(Numbers)
Rafters Class III	100	—	(Numbers)
Manvel Bamboo	300	—	(Numbers)

APPENDIX II

Timbers in Dangs

Local name	Botanical name	Uses
Babul	*Acacia arabica*	Wood used for house-buildings, carts, carriages and their parts, boat-building and their parts, sugar and oil-presses, rice-pounders, agricultural implements, Persian wheels, well curbs, cooper's work, packing for buffers of railway rolling stock, carving and turning including carved dies for cloth stamping. Good fuel, gives good charcoal. Gum from bark is largely collected. Branches, leaves and pods are fed to cattle, sheep and goats. Thorny branches used to fence fields. Tree sometimes used for rearing *lac* insects.
Bila	*Aegle marmelos*	Wood used for buildings, agricultural implements, carts, naves of wheels, shafts, axles, pestles of oil and sugar mills, tool-handles, carving and combs. The chief value of the tree lies in its fruit, the pulp of which is used medicinally. It is said to be added to mortar to make it more tenacious. Snuff boxes are prepared from fruit rind. Twigs and leaves used as cattle fodder. This tree is held sacred and its leaves are offered to the God Shiva.
Limbda	*Azadirachta indica*	Wood used for house-buildings (posts, beams, door and window frames), furniture, carts and their parts, ship and boat-building, ploughs, oil-mills, cigar-boxes and carved idols. Bark, gum, leaves and flowers are all used in medicine, while the seeds yield an oil (*neem* or margosa oil) which is used in medicine, for soap making and burning.
Garmalo	*Cassia fistula*	Wood used for house-building, (chiefly beams, posts and scantlings) bridge-posts, carts and their parts, agricultural implements, rice-pounders, boat-building, bowls,

APPENDIX II—*contd.*

Local name	Botanical name	Uses
		tool-handles, turning. It is recommended for bed-plates for machinery by Graham Anderson ; it is an excellent fuel, and gives good charcoal of bright colour and good ring. Pod pulp eaten by bears and monkeys ; used medicinally as a purgative ; also used to flavour tobacco. Bark used for tanning.
Pipal	*Ficus religiosa*	Wood used for packing-cases and occasionally for felloes of wheels ; also used as fuel and for charcoal. Root, leaves, bark and fruit are used medicinally. Bark gives a tenacious milky juice which hardens into a substance resembling guttapercha. Silk worms (the Gori silkworm) feed on the leaves of this tree in Assam. It is one of the trees on which the lac insect (*Carteria lacca* Keer) lives , and on it also is sometimes found the Chinese white-wax insect (*Ceroplastes ceriferus* Sign). Tree is largely lopped for cattle, elephant and camel fodder chiefly by non-Hindus. The pipal tree is regarded as one of the most sacred trees of the Hindus and Buddhists. The tree does much harm to buildings, walls and wells, as when once rooted the seedlings are most difficult to extirpate. In the forest it is a destructive epiphyte.
Shivan	*Gmelina arborea*	Wood used for planking, door-panels, furniture and cabinate-work, carriages, palanquins, ploughs, sluice-valves, well-construction, drums (a favourite wood), grain-measures, dug-out canoes, knees and thwarts of boats, oars, cooper's work, gunstocks, interior panelling and lining of railway carriages, boxes and packing-cases, combs, toys, carved images, picture-frames, sounding-boards of musical instruments ; pronounced very good for match manufacture ; makes fairly good unbleached wood pulp. Root, leaves, flowers and fruits used medici-

APPENDIX II—*contd.*

Local name	Botanical name	Uses
		nally. Fruit is eaten by poor classes in Satpudas and also by cattle.
Dhaman	*Grewia tiliaefolia*	Wood used for boats, masts, oars, ploughs, harrows, bows, shoulder-poles, handles of hoes and axes, house post, door and window-frames, bedsteads and other furniture, carts, golf clubs, cooper's work including oil-casks; has been tried for bear casks with excellent results. It would supplant English oak for casks, if supplied in large quantities. Young twigs and leaves good fodder for cattle. Inner bark yields a fibre for cordage. Acid flavoured fruits are eaten.
Bondara	*Lagerstroemia parviflora*	Wood used for house-building, carts, agricultural implements, furniture, boats, tool-handles, cooper's work, railway sleepers; might be suitable for paving blocks; good fuel; gives good charcoal. Bark and leaves used for tanning. Bark gum sweet and edible. Leaves are fodder for buffaloes. 'Tasar' silk-worm will feed on the leaves.
Mahuda	*Madhuka indica*	Wood used for house-building, bridge-construction, trenails, carts, furniture; valued for ship's keels and for planking below the water-line. Flowers are eaten raw, cooked or roasted. Seeds contain about 30 per cent of yellow oil; used for lamps, for manufacturing soaps and for candles. It is also used as an adulterant or substitute for *ghee*. Bark, flowers and oil are used medicinally.
Amla	*Spondias mangifera*	Wood is useless. It gives from the bark wounds an insipid gum somewhat resembling gum-arabic, but darker. Fruit is eaten, more usually pickled or made into curries. Leaves and fruits used medicinally. Bark used for tanning.
Bedan	*Terminalia belerica*	Wood used for inferior house-building, planking, coffee-boxes, dug-out canoes, side

APPENDIX II—*contd.*

Local name	Botanical name	Uses
		planks of boats and catamarans (South India), carts, and their parts, grain-measures, cooper's work, turning. Timber, if rendered impervious against attacks of white ants and dry-rot, would probably make excellent and cheap railway sleepers; recommended as definitely suitable for ply-wood work as it makes into good ply-wood of pleasing appearance. Fruit, beleric myrabolans of commerce, is used for dyeing cloth, leather and marking ink. Kernels are generally eaten, but produce symptoms of poisoning if eaten in large quantities. Fruit used medicinally; oil from kernels is used for hair. An insipid gum issues from wounds in the bark and is not of much use as it is insoluble in water.
Hardan	*Terminalia chebula*	Wood is used for house-building (beams, scantlings, planking and door-frames), furniniture, carts and their parts, agricultural implements, oars, and turning. The dried ripe fruits are the black or chebulic *myrabolans* of commerce. They are ovoid, more or less furrowed longitudinally, and of a yellowish-brown colour. There are two chief varieties to be met with in the bazars; *harda*, of a dark yellowish-brown colour, and *rangari* harda, smaller and of lighter colour. These fruits are extensively exported to Europe, and are valuable in the arts, as they contain a considerable amount of astringent principle. Bruised and immersed in water containing iron filing or salts of iron, they yield and mixed with alum in solution, a good yellow dye. They are held in high repute as medicinal agents, and are a good substitute for galls in lotion. Six fruits are administered internally in dysentery, bleeding piles and other diseases requiring tonic astringents. The upripe dried fruits are called *bala-harda*. They are small, ovoid, black shrivelled bodies possessing the

APPENDIX II—*concld.*

Local name	*Botanical name*	*Uses*
		same properties as the ripe fruits and are generally administered in the same cases, having been previously powdered, in *ghee* or castor oil. Curious hollow round galls, are found on the leaves of this tree, supposed to be caused by some unknown insect having deposited its ova there. They are very astringent, and are given in cases of infantile diarrhoea, and used in making ink, in dyeing and in tanning. They are known as *harda-phal* in the Deccan or *Kadu ray* in Tamil. The bark is also used in tanning.
Sajad	*Terminalia tomentosa*	Wood used for house-building, rough furniture, carts, ships, and boat-building, much used as mining timber in collieries ; used for oil-mills, rice-pounders, agricultural implements, railway sleepers. Excellent fuel and furnishes good charcoal. Bark is used for tanning and dyeing black. Ashes of the bark give a kind of lime eaten with betel leaf. The 'Tasar' silk-worm feeds on its leaves and lac is occasionally gathered from its branches. It gives a brown gum.

Source :

Gazetteer of Bombay State, General Series, Vol. A, *Botany*, Part II, Timbers, Bombay, 1957.

APPENDIX III

Medicinal Herbs in the Dangs District

The Dangs district is entirely a forest area which comprises about 4 lakh acres of protected and reserved forests or 95 per cent of the total area of the district. There are quite a good number of medicinal herbs and other vegetations which can be utilised for curing physical ailments and diseases. The Government of Gujarat therefore appointed in 1964 a Committee for Gardens of Medicinal Plants consisting of eminent Vaidyas and the State Director of Industries. the Chief Conservator of Forests, Gujarat State and the Director of Drugs Control Administration as members and convener respectively to make a comprehensive study of the medicinal plants available in the forests in the State and to suggest ways and means of their mass use in the preparation of the Ayurvedic medicines for the benefit of the people. The idea behind the constitution of the Committee was to prevent the manufacture and sale of spurious and sub-standard drugs and to develop the sources of raw materials necessary for medicinal preparation and also to examine potentiality of developing the gardens of medicinal plants as a State enterprise on a commercial basis, and to conduct research for the purpose.

In the Dangs district the Committee visited the forest region of Subir, Pipaldahad, Kalibel. Saputara, Bardipada, Chinchli, Mahal. the river bank of the Purna, Pimpri, Bhavandagad and Waghai for the study of medicinal plants. It gathered considerable data about the people of the Dangs, the peculiarities of its jungles, the timber trees and the Ayurvedic herbs growing in the Dangs jungles. It came across luxuriant growth of useful herbs such as Myrobalans, Embellic. myrobalan, Ipomoea peniculata. Terminalia arjuna and Acacia catechu. which had remained unutilized so far. The Committee found that out of about 500 Ayurvedic herbs growing in the State, nearly 300 to 350 were available in the Dangs only. It came across vegetations, herbs and creepers, but found that no special attempts were made for plantation and preservation of those herbs. Despite such criminal neglect it was surprising that so many Ayurvedic herbs still survived. Hills, valleys, river banks, rainfall, climate, etc., of the district are very suitable for the growth of the Ayurvedic herbs. Public at large might perhaps not be conversant with this but the people of Dangs freely used these herbs for major and minor physical complaints in every village.

The Committee further noticed that the herbs available during all the six seasons existed in such abundance that if an arrangement were made in respect of their exploration, collection and demonstration, adequate stock required for the whole year could be made available. Following main

APPENDIX III—*contd.*

species were found in large quantities : (1) Phanerogamus, i. e., vegetations bearing fruits after getting flowered, such as *Cassia fistula, Mimusops elengi, Albizzia lebbek,* etc., (2) Cryptogamous, i. e., vegetations bearing fruits without getting flowered, such as *Adiantum lanulatum, cocculus vilosus,* banyan tree, *Ficus glomerata,* (3) medicinal creepers like different types of *Tinospora cordifolia,* (4) tubers of various types like *Ipomoea paniculata* weighing one to two maunds are found in many a place, (5) seasonal vegetations such as *Cissampelos Pereira chitro, Asparagus recemosus,* (6) quite ordinary but effective Ayurvedic medicines like *Aegle marmelos, premna integrefolia (shevan), Cissanpelos pereira, Droxylum indicum, Alysicarpus, longifolius (gandhi-samekho).* Many beautiful trees of *Oryxylum indicum* were seen near Mahal, (7) thickly-grown trees of *Semicarpus anacardium,* (locally known as Biblo) a very important medicine in Ayurved, were found near Kalibel Ashram, very effective in the complaints of cough and gout. The Committeee felt that if it was planted on a large scale, it could have a wide market in India, (8) the three myrobalons, viz., *Terminalia chebula, Terminalia belerica* and *Emblica officinalis* (*Harda, Beda* and *Amala*) were available in plenty and were lying littered on the ground almost unused. If they were put to use, they would be beneficial not only to the Dangs but also to the State and the society at large. Saputara and the Don hill near the fort Salher were suitable places for growing *Terminalia chebula,* (9) Other useful medicines available in large quantities were *Holarrhena antidysenterica, Wrightia tinctoria, Classia fistula, Anthocephelus indicus, Acacia catechu, Erisbendron anfrafetuosum, Terminalia arjuna, Adansonia digitata, Bauhinia purpurea,* etc., (10) *Tacca aspera* (*Vajkand Kadu*) (*Haridio tad*), *Amorphophallus.* This Amorphophallus was being used in the treatment of piles. People administered it orally with curds after getting it boiled with the tamarind leaf, (11) medicines containing volatiles such as *Cymbopogon scheonanthus, Eucalyptus,* etc. (12) Vegetations useful for preparing gum-plasters for skin diseases, such as *Datura alba, Lippia nodiflora, Cassia tora, Cassia sophera* and wax were found in large quantities (13) Innumerable trees of *Gugal* (*Bauhinia purpurea*), which cure rheumatism and swelling of throat, (14) *Boswelia serrata* very useful in the disease of leucorrhoea, *Salmelia, malabarica, Tinospora cordifolia,* sealing wax, etc., (15) *Berberis aristata* useful in preparing a valuable medicine like Rasvanti for curing swelling, (16) *Shvetapunarnava* and *Butea monosperma* meant for eye diseases, (17) Vansna Jav for treating diabetes were available almost in tons and local people also used it to a large extent. Side by side, small quantities of Bitumen are also available, (18) Of the 600 medicinal purges indicated by Charak, some are for small intestine, some for *Grahani* and some are for big intestine. It appears that most of these medicines could be had from the Dangs, (19) for inducing vomiting, many items have been mentioned in Ayurved, of which *Randia dumetorum, Caphalandra indica,* bitter *turia, Legenaria vulgoris,* Britsly *buffa,*

APPENDIX III—*concld.*

Holarrbena antidysenterile, etc., were found in large quantities, (20) Vegetations out of which *Kshar* were prepared such as *Chitra, Calotropis Gigantea* trees, *Achyranthes aspera, Butea monosperma*, etc., (21) for prevention of diseases like small-pox, etc., these people use the seeds of wild plantains which are found here in large quantities, (22) for healing of wounds, *Nagbala* (*Thespesia populnea*), *Ficus religiosa*, banyan tree, *Ficus glomerata*, etc., (23) here, all the eight types of honey are found scattered in jungles. Four to five types of sealing wax and four to five types of *Gugal* were also found, (24) for diseases of the mouth, *Cassia auriculata, babul* trees and jujuba trees were also found scattered, (25) Medicines useful for purification of *Dhatus* and as an antidote which could contain mercury, such as *Krishna Bhringraj*, Shakhavali, (*Aegle marmelos*) etc., were available in adequate quantity, and (26) for *asav* and *arisht* and for leavening, flowers of *Woodfordia flouribunda* and those of mowhra trees were plentiful. Also the wood for preparing barrels for preserving such *asav* and persons able to prepare such barrels were available. All these medicines listed were being purchased as raw materials by the pharmacies of Gujarat from outside but herbs of good quality were in short supply. If, therefore, gardens of medicinal plants were reared, the Committee felt that the pharmacies of Gujarat would not suffer from shortage of genuine raw materials and pure medicines and Government would not run in loss. As a result the science of the Ayurved could be restored to its pride of place in the world of medicines.

Source :

Government of Gujarat, *Report of the Committee for Gardens of Medicinal Plants*, 1969, pp. 17-23.

APPENDIX IV

A List of Birds noticed in Dangs District

1 The White-necked Stork
Ciconia episcopa episcopa (Bodd.)

2 The Indian Black Ibis
Pseudibis papillosus (Temminck)

3 The Black-winged Kite
Elanus caeruleus vociferus (Latham)

4 The Crested Honey-Buzzard
Pernis ptilorhynchus ruficollis (Lesson)

5 The Brahminy Kite
Haliastur indus indus (Boddaert)

6 The Indian Shikra
Accipiter badius dussumieri (Temm. & Laugier)

7 The Asiatic Sparrow Hawk
Accipiter nisus nisosimilis (Tickell)

8 The White-eyed Buzzard
Butastur teesa (Franklin)

9 The Crested Hawk-Eagle
Spizaetus cirrhatus cirrhatus (Gmelin)

10 The Indian Tawny Eagle
Aquila rapax vindhiana (Franklin)

11 The Pale Harrier
Circus macrourus (*Gmelin*)

12 The Marsh Harrier
Circus aeruginosus aeruginosus (Linnaeus)

13 The Painted Partridge
Francolinus pictus ssp.

14 The Common or Grey Quail
Coturnix coturnix coturnix (Linnaeus)

APPENDIX IV—*contd.*

15 The Jungle Bush-Quail
Perdicula asiatica asiatica (Latham)

16 The Red Spurfowl
Galloperdix spadicea spadicea (Gmelin)

17 The Grey Jungle Fowl
Gallus sonnerati (Temm.)

18 The Peafowl
Pavo cristatus (Linn.)

19 The White-breasted Waterhen
Amaurornis phoenicurus spp.

20 The Southern Green Pigeon
Treron phoenicoptera chlorigaster (Blyth)

21 The Blue Rock Pigeon
Columba livia spp.

22 The Rufous Turtle Dove
Streptopelia orientalis meena (Sykes)

23 The Spotted Dove
Streptopelia chinensis suratensis (*Gmelin*)

24 The Indian Emerald Dove
Chalcophaps indica (Linn.)

25 The Large Indian Parakeet
Psittacula eupatria nipalensis (Hodgson)

26 The Rose-ringed Parakeet
Psittacula krameri borealis (*Neumann*)

27 The Blossom-headed Parakeet
Psittacula cyanociphala bengalensis (*Forst*)

28 The Common Hawk-Cuckoo
Cuculus varius varius (Vahl)

29 The Indian Banded Bay Cuckoo
Cacomantis Sonnerati Sonnerati (Latham)

APPENDIX IV—*contd.*

30 The Collared Scops Owl
Otus bakkamoena ssp.

31 The Indian Great Horned Owl
Bubo bubo bengalensis (Franklin)

32 The Barred Jungle Owlet
Glaucidium radiatum radiatum (Tickell)

33 The Mottled Wood Owl
Strix ocellata ocellata (Lesson)

34 The Indian Jungle Nightjar
Caprimulgus indicus indicus (Latham)

35 The Crested Tree Swift
Hemiprocne longipennis coronata (Tickell)

36 The Brown-headed Stork-billed Kingfisher
Pelargopsis capensis gurial (Pearson)

37 The Black-capped Kingfisher
Halcyon pileata (Boddaert)

38 The Grey Hornbill
Tockus birostris (Scopoli)

39 The Crimson-breasted Barbet
Megalaima haemacephala indica (Latham)

40 The Great Black Woodpecker
Dryocopus javensis hodgsoni (Jerdon)

41 The Yellow-fronted Pied Woodpecker
Picoides mahrattensis mahrattensis (Latham)

42 The Pigmy Woodpecker
Picoides nanus hardwickii (Jerdon)

43 The Heart-spotted Woodpecker
Hemicircus canente canente (Lesson)

44 The Black-backed Woodpecker
Chrysocolaptes festivus festivus (Boddaert)

APPENDIX IV—*contd.*

45 Malherbe's Golden-backed Woodpecker
Chrysocolaptes lucidus chersonesus (Kloss)

46 The Rufous-tailed Finch Lark
Ammomanes phoenicurus phoenicurus (Franklin)

47 The Little Green Bittern
Butorides striatus (Horsf)

48 The Dusky Crag Martin
Hirundo concolor concolor (Sykes)

49 The Crag Martin
Hirundo rupestris (Scopoli)

50 The Syke's Striated Swallow
Hirundo daurica erythropygia (Sykes)

51 The Black-backed Pied Flycatcher Shrike
Hemipus picatus picatus (Sykes)

52 The Large Malabar Wood Shrike
Tephrodornis virgatus sylvicola (Jerdon)

53 The Indian Common Wood Shrike
Tephrodornis pondicerianus pondicerianus (Gmelin)

54 The Large Indian Cuckoo Shrike
Coracina novaehollandiae macei (Lesson)

55 The Orange Minivet
Pericrocotus flammeus flammeus (Forester)

56 The Little Minivet
Pericrocotus cinnamomeus cinnamomeus (Linnaeus)

57 The Central Indian Iora
Aegithina tiphia humei (Stuart Baker)

58 Jerdon's Chloropsis
Chloropsis cochinchinensis jerdoni (Blyth)

59 The Brown Flycatcher
Muscicapa latirostris (Raffles)

APPENDIX IV—*contd.*

60 Tickell's Red-breasted Blue Flycatcher
Muscicapa tickelliae tickelliae (Blyth)

61 The White-spotted Fantail Flycatcher
Rhipidura pectoralis pectoralis (Jerdon)

62 The Blacknaped Blue Flycatcher
Hypothymis azurea styani (Hartlaub)

63 The Spotted Babbler
Pellorneum ruficeps ruficeps (Swainson)

64 The Deccan Scimitar Babbler
Pomatorhinus horsfieldi horsfieldi (Sykes)

65 The Small White-throated Babbler
Dumetia hyperythra albogularis (Blyth)

66 The Bombay Babbler
Turdoides somervillei somervillei (Sykes)

67 The Bombay Quaker Babbler
Alcippe poioicephala brucei (Hume)

68 Syke's Tree Warbler
Hippolais caligata rama (Sykes)

69 The Indian Lesser Whitethroat
Sylvia curruca blythii (Ticeh. and Whistler)

70 Hume's Lesser Whitethroat
Sylvia althoea (Hume)

71 The Olivaceous Tree-Warbler
Phylloscopus griseolus (Blyth)

72 Hume's Willow-Warbler
Phylloscopus inornatus humei (Brooks)

73 The Green Willow-Warbler
Phylloscopus trochiloides nitidis (Blyth)

74 The Large Crowned Willow-Warbler
Phylloscopus occipitalis occipitalis (Blyth)

APPENDIX IV—*contd.*

75 Tytler's Willow-Warbler
Phylloscopus tytleri (Brooks)

76 The Tailor Bird
Orthotomus sutorius guzurata (Latham)

77 The Jungle Wren-Warbler
Prinia Sylvatica gangetica (Blyth.)

78 Franklin's Wren-Warbler
Prinia gracilis gracilis (Franklin)

79 The Indian Magpie Robin
Copsychus saularis saularis (Linnaeus)

80 Brown-backed Indian Robin
Saxicoloides fulicata combayensis (Latham)

81 Black-capped Blackbird
Turdus simillimus mahrattensis (Kinnear and Whistler)

82 The Blue Rock Thrush
Monticola soiltarius pandoo (Sykes)

83 Malabar Whistling Thrush
Myiophoneus horsfieldi (Vigors)

84 The Indian Tree Pipit
Anthus hodgsoni hodgsoni (Richmond)

85 The Rufous-backed Shrike
Lanius schach erythronotus (Vigors)

86 The Brown Shrike
Lanius cristatus cristatus (Linnaeus)

87 The Velvet-fronted Nuthatch
Sitta frontalis frontalis (Swainson)

88 The Central Indian Yellow-cheeked Tit
Parus xanthogenys aplonotus (Blyth)

89 The Thick-billed Flowerpecker
Dicaeum agile agile (Tickell)

APPENDIX IV—*concld.*

90 Tickell's Flowerpecker
Dicaeum erythrorhychos erythrorhynchos (Latham)

91 The Purple Sunbird
Nectarinia asiatica asiatica (Latham)

92 Vigor's Yellow-backed Sunbird
Aethopyga siparaja vigorsi (Sykes)

93 The White-eye
Zosterops palpebrosa occidentis (Ticehurst)

94 The Indian Rosefinch
Erythrina erythrina roseatus (Blyth)

95 The Yellow-throated Sparrow
Petronia xanithocollis xanthocollis (Burton)

96 The White-backed Munia
Lonchura striata striata (Linnaeus)

97 The Common Myna
Acridotheres tristis tristis (Linnaeus)

98 The Indian Dark Ashy Drongo
Dicrurus leucophaeus longicaudatus (Jerdon)

99 The White-bellied Drongo
Dicrurus caerulescens caerulescens (Linnaeus)

100 The Malabar Racket-tailed Drongo
Dicrurus Paradiseus malabaricus (Latham)

101 The Northen Tree Pie
Crypsirina vagabunda pallida (Blyth)

102 The Crested Serpent Eagle
Spilornis cheela minor (Hume)

PART II

CHAPTER II

HISTORY

HISTORY OF DANGS

The sources of history of the Dangs district are few and far between. This is, presumably, because of its dense forests, hilly and inaccessible terrain, and stern tribal population. In the territory, there are no ancient monuments of historical or archaeological importance. There are no ancient temples or forts which may point to a particular period of histosy. Whatever historical evidence is available relates to the adjacent territories of Khandesh, Nasik, Surat and Baroda. There are very few direct references to the history of Dangs. This may be attributed to the fact that the Dangs territory was not treated as a separate political entity from the Khandesh district or Baglan area comprised in the adjacent Nasik district or the Songadh area of the Gaikwad. The history of the Dangs, therefore, requires to be pieced together from the fragmentary historical data relating to the districts adjacent to it. Intensive and extensive efforts have been made for rummaging the old historical records about the Dangs. Whatever material could be gathered from the different sources has been put together for resurrecting the history of the Dangs territory.

ANCIENT HISTORY

Archaeological Explorations

Archaeological explorations have, however, shed some light on the prehistoric culture of this area. The Dangs territory along with the adjacent areas of the Deccan was inhabited by the Early Man at the end of the Middle Pleistocene Period or the Early Stone Age about one and a half lakh of years ago. With abundant regular rain and little deforestation, there were thick forests, in which roamed wild animals like the wild bull, the straight-tusked elephant and the rhinoceros.

Tools and Weapons of the Stone Ages

The trap hills are capped with thick strata of basalt. But ordinary trap or basalt was not suitable for making tools and weapons. By trial and error, Early Man found that the pebbles and flat-sided slabs formed from the trap dykes made the most efficient tools and weapons. The dykes are

a peculiar rock formation. They appear like a wedge and run always in a straight line and were formed when the molten lava had spread in horizontal sheets covering extensive areas. At some places, the lava cooled more quickly, solidified well, and these later on erupted as dykes. Early Man chose to camp at sites, where such dykes were available. Thus arose such sites in the forest areas of the Dangs and the adjoining districts of Khandesh and Nasik of Maharashtra.[1]

The tools of the Early Stone Age found in the Dangs district mainly consist of (i) cleavers and (ii) pebble-tools.[2]

The tools of the Middle Stone Age found in the adjacent areas are not only numerous but are much more widely spread than those of the Early Stone Age. The basalt pebbles and nodules of dykes were then replaced by chalcedony, chert and jasper. The tools and weapons of this age mainly consist of (*i*) scrapers, (*ii*) points and (*iii*) awls or borers.[3] In the adjoining Nandurbar taluka of the adjacent Khandesh district of Maharashtra, the implements of this age are found to be considerable.[4]

The Late Stone Age has yielded various types of microliths in almost all parts of Gujarat. The microliths are known to have been procured from the adjoining Surat district,[5] though not yet from the Dangs district.

The New Stone Age is remarkable for the introduction of the cultivation of land and the domestication of animals. Neoliths with sockets for inserting wooden handles are recently discovered in this district. They were used either as agricultural implements or as maces.[6]

Dandakaranya

Archaeological explorations have not yielded any traces of protohistoric culture in this district. But from the literary references, it appears that the area seems to have formed a part of the celebrated Dandakaranya or Dandaka forest of the Ramayana age, which was situated to the south

1. Sankalia H. D., *The Man in Maharashtra, Bhavan's Journal*, Annual Number, Vol. XVII, No. 1, pp. 221 ff.
2. Sankalia H. D., "*Pragaitihasik Samskritio*", *Gujaratno-Rajakiya-ane-Samskritik Itihas*, Vol. I, p. 77.
3. Sankalia, H. D., "*The Man in Maharashtra*", *Op. cit.*, p. 228.
4. *Ibid.*, p. 228.
5. Foote R. B., *Indian Prehistoric and Protohistoric Antiquities*, p. 154.
6. Sankalia H. D., "*Pragaitihasik Samskritio*", *Op. cit.*

of the Narmada river and to the north of the Godavari river.[1] Probably the name *Dang* represents the old name *Dandaka*; as the area is still shrouded with forest. During his exile for fourteen years, Lord Rama is said to have stayed in Dandakaranya for ten years.[2]

Early History

As there are very few traces of ancient history left in the district, its early history is mainly lost in oblivion. But we get some glimpses from the contemporary history of the adjoining regions.

Mauryan Period (*circa 322-185 B. C.*)

It is well-known in the history of Western India that in the Mauryan period (*circa* 322-185 B. C.), Saurashtra and Konkan were under the sway of the Mauryan emperors of Magadha (South Bihar), as attested by the Asokan Rock Edicts found near the Girnar mountain (Saurashtra) and Sopara (the Konkan). The intervening region including the area of the present Dangs district might have been under the Mauryas at the time of Asoka (*circa* 273-137 B. C.). The Mauryan power seems to have extended over the Western India during the reign of Chandragupta Maurya (*circa* 322-298 B. C.), as implied by the reference to the construction of the Sudarsana reservoir near the Girnar by Pushyagupta Vaishya, a governor of that sovereign.[3] The Mauryan regime probably continued at least upto the reign of Samprati (*circa* 229-220 B. C.), the grandson of Asoka.[4]

Satavahana-Kshatrapa Period (*circa 30 B. C.—235 A. C.*)

Nothing definite is known about the realm of the Sungas or the Indo-Greeks over this region. But the Satavahana kings of the Deccan seem to have occupied southern parts of Gujarat when the supreme power of Magadha declined and fell.[5]

In the first century of the Christian era, the southern parts of Gujarat along with northern parts of Maharashtra seem to have passed under the power of the Kshaharata-Kshatrapa kings. A cave-inscription at Nasik

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1. Vide '*Dandakaranyadese Godavarya uttaratire Narmadaya daksinatate*' in the *Sankalpa*, passage cited by the priests of Gujarat.

2. Valmiki, *Ramayana, Aranyakanda Adhyaya* 10, verse 25.

3. Junagadh Rock Inscription of Rudradaman I, *Epigraphia Indica*, Vol. VIII, pp. 42 ff.

4. Raychaudhuri H. C., *Political History of Ancient India*, p. 352.

5. Sircar D. C., *The Satavahanas and the Chedis, Age of Imperial Unity*, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan publication, pp. 195-199.

records that Ushavadata, son-in-law of King Nahapana (*circa* 38-78 A. C.) of this family, provided ferries on the rivers Dahanuka, Damana, Parada and Tapi.[1]

The Kshaharata power was thereafter shortly uprooted by the Satavahanas, as indicated by a cave-inscription of the time of Vasisthiputra Pulumavi (130-159 A. C.), which also included Saurashtra among the territories of Gautamiputra Satakarni (106-130 A. C.).[2] The Kshatrapas of the Kardamaka family, however, recovered northern territories in Rajasthan, Gujarat and Malwa, but the area to the south of the Narmada river seems to have been retained by the Satavahanas.[3]

ABHIRA PERIOD (*circa 248-415 A. C.*)

By the middle of the third century, the region round Nasik passed under the sway of the Abhira kings. The so called Kalachuri era was probably counted from the beginning (248 A. C.) of the reign of king Isvarasena.[4] There were nine kings in the Abhira dynasty, who reigned for 167 years[5] (*circa* 248-415 A. C.).

TRAIKUTAKA PERIOD (*circa 415-520 A. C.*)

While the Gupta sovereigns of Magadha extended their sway over Malwa and Gujarat, the Traikutakas from Aparanta (Konkan) established their rule over the southern parts of Gujarat in *circa* 415 A. C.[6] The copper-plate grants issued by the kings of this dynasty contain references to regions between the rivers of the Purna and the Mindhola and between the Tapi and the Kim.[7] In the beginning of the sixth century, the Traikutaka kingdom

1. Nasik Cave (No. 10), *Inscription of the time of Nahapana*, *Epigraphia Indica*, Vol. VIII, pp. 78 ff.

   Till recently, the years 41 to 46 given in connection with Nahapana were generally referred to as the Saka era and equated with 119-20 to 124-25 A. C., as they fell prior to the known Saka year 52 (130-31 A. C.) of Chashtana. But the recent discovery of an Andhau inscription of the time of Chashtana dated year 11 (JAIH. Vol. II, pp. 104 ff.) supports the earlier view of taking years of Nahapana as his regular years. Though the editor of this inscription has contended to take Chashtana as contemporary of Nahapana, the types and provenance of their coins clearly indicate that Nahapana flourished earlier than Chashtana, whose reign now seems to have commenced in or shortly after 78 A. C.

2. Nasik Cave (No. 3), *Inscription of Vasisthiputra Pulumavi*, *Epigraphia Indica*, Vol. VIII, pp. 60 ff.

3. Junagadh Rock Inscription of Rudradaman I, *Epigraphia Indica*, Vol. VIII, pp. 42 ff.

4. BHAGVANLAL INDRAJI, *Proceedings of International Oriental Congress*, Vienna, pp. 221 f., MIRASHI V. V., *Corpus Inscriptionum Indicarum*, Vol. IV, Introduction, pp. xxii-xxvi.

5. *Ibid.*, p. xxvi.

6. *Ibid.*, p. xLii.

7. *Ibid.*, pp. xLii-xLiii; Nos. 8-9.

seems to have passed under the suzerainty of the Vakataka sovereign Harishena (*circa* 500-520 A. C.) whom an Ajanta inscription credits with victory over Lata and Trikuta.[1]

KATACHCHURI PERIOD (*circa 525-620 A. C.*)

After the fall of Vakataka rule, the South Gujarat seems to have passed under the suzerainty of the 'Early Katachchuris', who ruled over the Northern Maharashtra and Konkan from *circa* 525 to 620 A. C.[2]

SENDRAKA PERIOD (*circa 620-670 A. C.*)

When the Katachchuri power declined, the Sendrakas established their political control over the South Lata and Khandesh from *circa* 620 A. C. to 670 A. C.[3]

EARLY CHALUKYA PERIOD (*671-740 A. C.*)

In 671 A. C., the Early Western Chalukyas of the Deccan established a branch at Navsari under Dharashraya Jayasimha, younger brother of the illustrious Vikramaditya I.[4] King Avanijanashraya Pulakesi, son of Dharashraya Jayasimha is credited with successful encounter with the Arab forces from Sindh, who intended to march across to the Deccan but were forced to retreat from Navsari (726 A. C.).[5] The Chalukyas ruled over South Lata extending from the Kim in Surat district to as far as Thana district in the south.[6]

RASHTRAKUTA PERIOD (*circa 740-970 A. C.*)

For over the next three hundred years, the South Gujarat was under the Rashtrakutas of the Deccan. King Dantidurga conquered Lata and Malwa before 750 A. C.[7] Shortly Govinda, his cousin, established his rule over the South Gujarat[8] region. When the Maitraka kingdom of Valabhi fell in 788 A. C., Kakka or Karka II, son and successor of Govinda,

1. *Indian Culture*, Vol. VII, pp. 372 ff.
2. MIRASHI V. V., *op. cit.*, pp. xLvi-L.
3. *Ibid.*, pp. Lviii-Lix.
4. *Ibid.*, p. Lx.
5. "Navsari Plates of Pulakesiraja", *Ibid.*, No. 30.
6. *Ibid.*, p. Lxv.
7. ALTEKAR A. S., *The Rashtrakutas and their Times*, p. 33 (f. n.). Khetaka mentioned in connection with the abduction of a Chalukya princess by Indraraja, father of Dantidurga, cannot be located in Gujarat, as the event, which is dated *circa* 728 A. C., cannot probably fit in with the known political conditions of Gujarat.
8. Vide Antroli-Charoli Copper-Plates of Kakka *II*, *Journal of the Bombay Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society*, Vol. XVI, pp. 105 ff.

extended his power over Northern Gujarat and shifted his capital to Kheda.[1] Govinda III, the illustrious king of the main line, entrusted South Gujarat to his younger brother Indra, whose lineage ruled over it since *circa* 800 A. C. to 900 A. C.[2] The region then passed over under the main Rashtrakuta line of the Deccan. In the coastal strip, Variav (near modern Surat), Navsari and Sanjan (near Umbargaon) figured as important towns.[3]

LATA CHALUKYA PERIOD (*circa 970-1080 A. C.*)

When the later Chalukya replaced the Rashtrakutas in the Deccan and the Chavdas lost North Gujarat to the Chaulukyas, another Chalukya family established its power in South Gujarat, with its capital at Nandod[4] (in the former Rajpipla State). Barappa, a general of the Chalukya king Taila II of the Deccan and the founder of this lineage, came into conflict with Mularaja I, the founder of the Chaulukya dynasty in North Gujarat. Goggiraja, son of Barappa, recovered his territory. His son Kirtiraja donated a village near the Tapi river in 1018 A. C.[5] Vatsaraja, son and successor of Kirtiraja, was the patron of the Sanskrit poet Soddhala, the author of *Udayasundarikatha*. Trilochanapala, who succeeded Vatsaraja, issued the grant of a village in modern Olpad taluka in 1050 A. C.[6] Some years later, the Chaulukya king, Karna I of North Gujarat, succeeded in occupying Lata, as indicated by his Navsari plates, which record the donation of a village *Nagasarika Visaya* (i. e., Navsari district) in 1174 A. C.[7] But shortly Trivikramapala, son and successor of Trilochanapala, recovered the lost territory. He appointed his cousin Padmapala, *samanta* of *Astagrama Visaya* in *Nagasarika Mandala* and issued a grant in 1077 A. C.[8] However, the Chalukyas do not seem to have retained their power for a long time.

THE CHAULUKYA PERIOD (*circa 1080-1180 A. C.*)

Probably king Karna I shortly reconquered Lata, which then formed a province of the Chaulukya kingdom for a pretty long period. During the

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1. SHASTRI H. G., *Maitraka-kalin Gujarat*, p. 333; *Epigraphia Indica*, Vol. XXXIV, pp. 213 ff.
2. MAJMUDAR M. R., *Chronology of Gujarat*, pp. 232-250.
3. ACHARYA G. V., *Historical Inscriptions of Gujarat*, Nos. 131, 125 B, 141-142 and 130.
4. PANDYA AMRIT, *New Dynasties of Gujarat-History*, pp. 7 ff.
5. CAMPBELL J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. I, *History of Gujarat*, (1896), Part I, p. 159; *Journal of the Gujarat Research Society*, Vol. VIII, p. 153.
6. " A Copper-plate Grant of King Trilochanapala Chaulukya of Latadesa ", *Indian Antiquary*, Vol. XII, pp. 196 ff.
7. " Two grants of the time of Chaulukya Karnadeva, from Navsari ", J. B. B. R. A. S., Vol. XXVI, pp. 250 ff.
8. *Ibid.*, pp. 250 ff.

reign of Siddharaja Jayasimha (1094-1143 A. C.), Sahada and Yasasyana, sons of Rathod king of Kanauj, are said to have come to Anhilwad Patan and marched southward with the military help received from there. Sahada is said to have then slain Nehals and Bhils, occupied Pippalagrama (represented by modern Pipal near Songadh-Vyara) and ruled over it, while Yasasyana is said to have married a Yadava princess of Devagiri and established his reign at Salgiri (Salher).[1] Thenceforth, this area remained under the power of the Rathods who reigned as feudatories of the Chaulukya sovereigns of North Gujarat. King Kumarapala (1143-1172 A. C.) came into direct conflict with the Silahara king Mallikarjuna of North Konkan. His minister Ambad marched against the arrogant king of Konkan and encamped on the southern bank of the Kaveri river in South Gujarat. Though routed in his first campaign, Ambad ultimately succeeded in killing Mallikarjuna in war.[2] Karna also sent forces from Nandipura (Nandod) in Lata against those of king Ballala in Malwa.[3] In the reign of king Ajayapala (1172-1176 A. C.), Vaijalladeva of the Chahamana (Chauhan) family officiated as the *Mahamandalesvara* (Governor) of *Narmada-tata Mandala*. He issued the grant of a village in *Purna Pathaka* in 1174 (1175) A. C.[4] The Chaulukya kings seem to have retained their hold over South Gujarat for about a century (*circa* 1080-1180 A. C.)

THE CHAHAMANA PERIOD (*circa 1180-1222 A. C.*)

When the Chaulukya power declined during the reign of Bhimadeva II (1178-1233 A. C.), Simha, the Chahamana (Chauhan), governor of Lata, seems to have established his independence.[5] Sankha, son of Sindhuraja, brother of *Mandalesvara* Simha, was an illustrious king of this dynasty. He came into conflict with the mighty Yadava king Singhana of Devagiri. In the beginning, Sankha gave a successful encounter to the campaign of Singhana, but was subsequently compelled to acknowledge the suzerainty of the Yadava sovereign.[6] Viradhavala, the Chaulukya Rana of Dholka, took advantage of this opportunity and captured Khambhat (present Cambay) which was under the power of Sankha. While the former was engaged in his conflict with the kings of Marwad, Sankha tried in vain to win Vastupala, minister of Viradhavala, over his side, and attacked Khambhat, which was under the charge of the minister. Vastupala compelled him to retreat ; and when Sankha invaded again, he was slain by Vastupala

1. *Gujarat Sahitya Sabha Niyukta Dang Samiti-no Aheval*, p. 4.
2. MAJUMDAR A. K., *Chaulukyas of Gujarat*, pp. 113 f.
3. *Ibid.*, p. 113; HEMACHANDRA, *Dvashraya*, XIX, pp. 100-126
4. *Indian Antiquary*, Vol. XVIII, pp. 80 ff.
5. MAJUMDAR A. K., *Op. cit.*, p. 149.
6. MAJUMDAR R. C., *The Struggle for Empire*, p. 190

in war,[1] These events seem to have taken place between 1220 and 1223 A. C.[2] The Chahamana dynasty in Lata was not heard of later.

VAGHELA CHAULUKYA PERIOD (*circa 1223-1306 A. C.*)

The Vaghela Chaulukya Rana Viradhavala, and his powerful minister Vastupala, now possibly extended their power over South Gujarat. In 1244 A. C. Rana Visaladeva, son and successor of Rana Viradhavala, attained the throne of Anhilwad Patan and became the lord of the whole of Gujarat. Conflict between the kings of Gujarat and the Yadava kings of Devagiri continued during the reign of the Vaghela Chaulukyas, one victory being referred to the Yadava king Mahadeva or Ramachandra before 1272 A. C.[3] and another to the Chaulukya king Sarangadeva before 1287 A. C.[4] Karna, the last king of the Vaghela Chaulukya dynasty, was vanquished by the forces of Ulugh Khan, general of Ala-ud-din Khilji, once in 1299 A. C. and again in 1304 A. C. When the forces of the Sultan occupied Anhilwad Patan permanently and annexed Gujarat into the Delhi Sultanate, Karna Vaghela took refuge at Baglan, which was under the Rathod feudatories and lay near the southern boundary of Gujarat, bordering on the dominion of the Yadava kings of Devagiri.[5]

This Baglan Chief claimed to be of the stock of the Kanoj Rathods and to have been settled in Baglan since 300 A. D. They claimed to have at first been independent, minting their own money and stated that they afterwards lost their power, and paid tribute to Gujarat or to the overlord of the North Deccan whichever happened to be the stronger. Each Chief on succession took the title of Baharji. Karna ruled over Baglan and Nandurbar for some years.[6]

In 1306-07 A. C., Malik Kafur encamped on the borders of the Deccan. According to a tradition given in some Muslim chronicles on the basis of an account depicted in a poem by Amir Khushru, Malik Kafur sent Karna an order to surrender his daughter Devaldevi. Karna did not comply with this queer order, and on the contrary agreed to the proposal of Ramadeva to give her in marriage to the latter's son, Singhana. Alap Khan, the general

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1. MAJUMDAR A. K., *Op. cit.*, pp. 149 ff; *Puratana-prabandhasamgraha*, p. 56.

2. Vastupala took charge of Khambhat shortly after his appointment as minister of Viradhavala in 1220 A. C. while his son Jayantasimha administered the town since 1223 A. C. (Girnar Inscriptions Nos. 1-6, *Revised List of the Antiquarian Remains in the Bombay Presidency*, pp. 328 ff).

3. MAJUMDAR A.K., *Op.cit.*, p.180 and MAJUMDAR R. C., *The Struggle for Empire*, p.193.

4. *Ibid.*, p. 183; *Cintra Prasasti*, vs. 13 (E. I. I., p. 171 ff).

5. *Ibid.*, pp. 187 ff; COMMISSARIAT M. S., *History of Gujarat*, Vol. I, p. 4.

6. CAMPBELL J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. XVI, *Nasik*, (1883), p. 402.

of Ala-ud-din Khilji, was ordered by Malik Kafur to force his way through the Baglan hills. For two months, Karna offered resistance, but was ultimately forced to flee. Alap Khan pursued him without success. On the way to Devagiri, troops of Alap Khan happened to come across a party of horseman, and after a sharp fight, secured the lady escorted by them. When they found that she was none other than princess Devaldevi, they sent her to Delhi, where she was married to Khizr Khan, son of the Sultan Ala-ud-din.[1]

THE MEDIEVAL PERIOD

Yadava Period (1306-1313 A. C.)

When Ramadeva acknowledged the suzerainty of the Delhi Sultanate, his power was extended to Navsari in South Gujarat.[2] This must have included the possession of Baglan. King Karna was not heard of any more. He is said to have passed his last days miserably somewhere in the south and died unnoticed.

The Yadava kings often avoided to send tributes to the Delhi Sultanate. Singhanadeva II, who succeeded Ramadeva in 1311 A. C., offended the Delhi Sultanate by his reluctance to send tributes. Malik Kafur therefore invaded Devagiri again in 1313 A. C., vanquished Singhanadeva and put his kingdom directly under the control of the Sultanate.[3] In course of time, Nandurbar and Baglan were formed into *surkars* of the Gujarat province (*subah*) under the Delhi Sultanate.[4]

These territories passed into the hands of Bahamani kings of Gulbarga (1347 to 1487) and thereafter from 1487 to 1637, under the political control of the Nizamshah, the king of Ahmednagar. During these changes of political overlords, the local Chiefs of the wild western Dangs seem to have been left alone and independent. A reference is found to one of the Dangs Chiefs. In 1608, Hawkins speaks of the Chiefs of the Cruly (Kirli, south-east of Salher). On the final over-throw of the Nizamshahi dynasty in 1637, the Mughals became supreme in the North Deccan and the Province of Khandesh and Daultabad were united under Prince Aurangzeb, who fixed his capital at Aurangabad near Daultabad. In 1637, Aurangzeb reduced the hill country of Baglan and made the Chief of Baglan a commander of 3,000 horses.

1. MAJUMDAR A. K., *Op-cit.*, pp. 191 f. and MAJUMDAR R. C., *The Struggle for Empire*, pp. 195 f.
2. CAMPBELL J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. XVI, *Nasik*, (1883), p. 401.
3. MAJUMDAR R. C., (General Editor), *The Struggle for Empire*, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan publication, p. 196.
4. NAIK C. R., *Madhya-yuga Gujarat-ek-Parichaya*, (Indian History Congress, 56th Session, Souvenir), p. 103.

Further historical evidence relating to the Dangs is found in a reference to Shivaji's attack on Surat in 1664. It is on record that before attacking Surat for plunder, he sent one Bahiraji Naik to spy out the country for attack and plunder, whilst Shivaji himself moved a force upto Junnar on a false pretext of visiting some forts in that direction. On receiving a final report from Bahiraji, Shivaji declared that he was going to perform religious ceremony at Nasik. Thus, after putting the people on a false scent, with a force of 4,000 picked horsemen, he dashed down the Ghats, passed through the Dangs jungles, stormed Surat and plundered it "at leisure for 6 days." It was not only in 1664 that Shivaji passed through the Dangs for plunder of Surat. After plundering Surat again in 1670, Shivaji returned by the way near Salher and took important forts in Baglan along with other forts in the Akola district.

In 1672, Shivaji took some of the small forts to the south of Surat such as Parnera and Bhagwada now in the Bulsar district, while Moro Pant Trimal got possession of the large fort of Salher in Baglan, regarded as one of the most frequented passages from Deccan into Gujarat. Muhabad Khan besieged Salher. The force sent by Shivaji to raise the siege was attacked by the Mughals. But after some severe fighting, the Mughals were defeated and the siege of Salher was raised. Shivaji died in 1680. His death was followed by a revival of the Mughal power. In 1684, prince Muhammad Azam gained the fort of Salher by promises and presents but was repulsed by the Commandant of Ramsej near Nasik. After the Mughals left the arena in 1685, Hambirarav, the Maratha Commander-in-Chief moved from the Konkan, plundered Khandesh and retired ravaging the country around with the base of the Satmalas towards Nasik. For 20 years, the struggle went on and forts were taken and retaken and from time to time, the Marathas overran the country, indulging in arson and loot.[1]

After the death of Aurangzeb in 1707, disorder increased. In 1713, Husain Khan, the leading noble at Delhi, sent an army to Nasik against Maratha Sardar Khanderao Dabhade, but the expedition proved a complete failure. The second expedition ended in a battle near Ahmednagar, where the Marathas again succeeded. At last, after negotiations through the able management of the Peshwa Balaji Vishvanath, the Marathas gained grants of the *chauth* (¼th) and the *sardeshmukhi* (1/10th) of the Deccan revenue. In 1723, the Nizam established himself as an independent ruler in the Deccan. Under him, there was a commandant at Mulher and one Governor at Baglan. Till 1794, Baglan remained under the political control of the Nizam. In 1795, after the battle of Kharda, the Nizam ceded Baglan to Peshwa. The fort of Salher is said to have been given by the Peshwa for dress-money to Rani Gahinabai, the wife of the Govindrao Gaikwad, who after the

1. CAMPBELL J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. XVI, *Nasik*, (1883), p. 191.

battle of Dhodap (1768) remained for sometime as State prisoner at Poona.

With the death of the Peshwa Madhavrao II in 1797, there began a time of trouble which lasted till the conquest of the country by the British. In 1802, Yashvantrao Holkar, on his way to Poona crossing Malegaon and Chandor with a large army, routed Narsing Vinchurkar, plundered his villages and destroyed standing crops. The Pindharis, who were on the rampage, completed the destruction. The result was a total failure of food-grains. In 1802, Bajirao Peshwa signed the Treaty of Bassein. In 1803, Sir Wellesley advanced towards Poona to save the city from destruction by Amritrao, the adopted brother of Bajirao. In 1805, Holkar came to terms with the Peshwa, who restored to him (Holkar) all possessions except a few areas.

The Bhils of Khandesh and the adjacent Dangs created[1] serious troubles during the period from 1802 to 1816. The Bhils, who till 1802, had lived with other inhabitants as village watchmen, and had been the chief instrument of police, gathered in large numbers, retired to the hills and when the famine was over, pillaged rich plain villages. "Against such an enemy, no tactics were thought too cruel or too base". Balaji Sakharam, Sar-Subedar of Khandesh and Baglan was appointed by the Peshwa to put down the Bhil disturbances. Balaji asked a body of Bhils to meet him at Kopargaon in Ahmednagar, treacherously seized them and threw them down the wells and for a time, cleared the country south of the Chandor range. In 1806, there was a Bhil massacre at Ghevri Chandgaon in Ahmednagar and several villages in different parts of Khandesh. When these disturbances broke out, the work of suppressing them was entrusted to Trimbakji Denglia. He made over to Naroba Takit, headman of Karambha, a force consisting of 5,000 to 6,000 horse and a large body of infantry and ordered him to clear the Godavari district. Naroba butchered the Bhils wherever he found them and in 15 months, about 15,000 Bhils were said to have been massacred.[2] But the savage handling of the situation failed to restore order. Unable to protect themselves, the Chiefs and large land-holders called in the aid of Arab mercenaries. The Arabs had become very powerful in that state of disorder. Besides the Bhil plunderers and the Arab usurers, the district suffered from the exactions of its revenue farmers. The revenue farmer not only collected the revenue but also administered civil and criminal justice. Justice was bought and sold and the people often suffered more from the Mamlatdar than from the Bhils.[3]

In 1816, Trimbakji Denglia, who, for the murder of the Gangadharrao Shashtri, had been imprisoned at Thana, escaped and wandering in the

1. CAMPBELL J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. XVI, *Nasik*, (1883), p. 194.

2. *Ibid*., p. 194.

3. *Ibid*., p. 195.

hills of Nasik and Khandesh, roused wild tribes and made preparations for war under instructions from his master, Bajirao.

In 1817, Peshwa declared war against the British. The Nagpur Chief followed suit and despite strong opposition of Tulsibai, the mother of the young prince, Holkar's ministers and generals resolved to join the Marathas. *Tulsibai was seized and beheaded and the insurgent generals began their southward march with a large army. In 1817, they were met at Mahidpur by Sir John Malcolm and Sir Thomas Hislop and after stiff struggle, were defeated.* Under the treaty of Mansor, the Holkar ceded to the British his Khandesh territories including northern half of Nasik.

Dangs under the British

The history of the Dangs takes a definite shape only after the British established contact with the Dangs territory subsequent to the acquisition of Khandesh from the Peshwa in 1818. At that time, there were constant inroads of Bhils from the Dangs upon the villages in the newly acquired territory of Khandesh. The name of the Dangs Bhils struck terror in the hearts of the people. Blackmail was paid by even powerful governments to buy off these plunderers, who from the security of the rocks and forests, regarded the country at their feet (plains area) as their lawful prey. The British therefore considered it their primary duty to suppress the Dangs Chiefs.[1]

The *history under the British may be divided into* the following sections :

(1) insurrections of the Dangs Chiefs,

(2) the forest leases,

(3) the Gaikwad's claims in the Dangs,

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1. In his memorandum submitted to the Commissioner, the Forest Settlement Officer, on Special Duty (Mr. R. A. Lamb) has made very pertinent observations about "The Original Lords of the Dangs" as below :

"The original possessors of the Dangs are the Bhils. Whether they are aboriginal the first people that ever settled here, it is needless to enquire. It is sufficient to know that they have been here from a remote period; as they say since "Badabahi" a word that I take to mean merely extreme antiquity. Captain Graham says they came here when "driven by other tribes from Meywar and Jodhpur." If they were not the first settlers here. their 'predecessors were men like themselves–wanderers and livers in huts-for the Dangs contain no old ruined forts and villages such as are found in the Satpudas and other forest tracts. There was clearly never in old times any settled population in the Dangs. The Bhils there now were in possession when the British acquired the neighbouring districts of Khandesh and Nasik, and they are beyond a question, the original lords of the Dangs". (K. R. Bomanji : *Dang Boundary Dispute*, (1903), published by Government of Bombay, Part II, pp. 45-46. Memorandum submitted by R. A. Lamb, Forest Settlement Officer on Special Duty, to the Commissioner, No. 105 dated the 11th April, 1886 cited.).

(4) the status of the Dangs,

(5) the forest administration,

(6) transfer of the Dangs State to the Government of India and its merger in Bombay and

(7) *Chiefs and their haks.*

(1) INSURRECTIONS OF THE DANGS CHIEFS[1]

The Bhils as a race are illiterate, poor and improvident. They are suspicious of civilization and superstitious in beliefs. But "they are brave to a fault; no enterprise is too daring for them. They are acquainted with every hill, path, refuge, retreat and forest."[2] Besides these, there is one sterling virtue in them. It is their sturdy spirit of independence and intolerance of any external interference in their traditional habitat. By virtue of these qualities, they fought to the last ditch against any external influence whether it was from the Peshwa, the Gaikwad, the British or any other neighbouring States.

It needs to be remembered that their raids during the regime of the Peshwa, the Gaikwad or the British were not carried out with any ambition of territorial conquests. They considered their Dangs forests as their heaven. They had no genius for administering their territories. As a result, after obtaining shares from the spoils of the pillage, they contented themselves by retiring and hiding in the forest tastnesses.

After the Dangs came under the jurisdiction of the East India Company, efforts were made to stamp out the scourge of the Dang Chiefs, but they were not easy to be suppressed. The cases where they were suppressed, were due to their ignorance, simple nature, poverty and fraud. Their insurrections or raids which were directed in all directions, are detailed below.

In October 1770, Govind Vasudev and his wife Gahinabai, who were going to Poona for settlement of the questions about the Dangs, were imprisoned by the Dangs Raja Abhimanya in the Hatgadh fort.

1819

The whole province was a scene of utter confusion. The village police aided plunderers and the devastation was carried on with impunity. The Government issued a proclamation that all Bhils who would return to

1. Bombay Government Selection No. XXVI (1856), Appendix A and DWIVEDI MANIBHAI, *Puratan Dakshina Gujarat*, (1940), pp. 1 23.

2. SIMCOX; A. H. A., *Memoir of the Khandesh Bhil Corps*, 1825-1891, (1912).

their villages would be provided with grain by the Patels. Despite this, Silput Raja of Gadhvi and the Dangs Bhils went out on rampage.

1820

The Dangs Bhils plundered Surgana. Kunvar Wusawa was in arms.

1821

The Dangs Bhils plundered Umarpat. The Dangs Chiefs and their followers plundered some of the villages near Beharru Pargana and carried away cattle, burnt villages and wounded inhabitants. During the monsoon, the Chiefs attacked, burnt some of the inhabitants and drew out the cattle of Bhour, one of the Government villages of Khandesh.

From 1821, the British seemed to have been very much averse to effect an entry into the Dangs with an armed force because of the highly fever-ridden climate and lack of water in the area.

1822-24

On the appearnce of the British force, the Dangs Chiefs submitted. In 1823, they threatened the Navapur area. In 1824, Graham recorded that the Bhils, as usual, dispersed for the time being and heavy rewards for the apprehension of the Bhil leaders were vainly offered.

1825

A serious revolt broke out in the adjacent area of Baglan. One black-smith, Shivram forged documents under the signature of Chhatrapati of Satara and entered into conspiracy with the Bhils of the Dangs and adjacent areas. They ravaged the village Antapur of the Gaikwad and captured the fort of Mulher. In that year, the Gaikwad sent an army of 10,000 to suppress the Dangs Chiefs but the expedition resulted in a debacle for the army due to sturdy resistance from the Chiefs. The situation became so serious that the East India Company ordered formation of the Bhil Corps from the Bhils of Khandesh.[1] Chains of military posts were established along the foot of the hills to intercept supplies and to act immediately on information.

The British divided the territory of Khandesh into 3 Agencies, Nandurbar, Sultanpur and Pimpalneir with all the independent and tributary Chieftains including those of the Dangs which formed the North-Western Agency. This was done in 1825 under the orders of Lord Elphinstone.

1. *Selections from the Records of the Bombay Government*, No. XXVI, New Series, (1856), pp. 200-223.

Governor of Bombay. The Dangs, which were subject to a number of semi-independent Bhil Chiefs were included in one of the Bhil Agencies called the North-Western Agency under a Resident European Officer.

1826

The Dangs Chiefs created a climate of awe and terror all round and pillaged Sultanpur. One Subhanya Naik beat back the British force.

1827-29

Incidents of scattered depredations and rapine continued but the conditions were peaceful. But in 1829, the Dangs Chiefs ravaged the Kasbas of Nagri of Navapur Mahal and Chorwad and destroyed them completely. In that year, the Bhils even carried their forays as far as Berar and looted villages. The situation became so serious that the British feared that those Bhils and Kolis might enter the *Ghats* near Nasik and capture the Satpura area. To meet the situation, Lt. Outram camped at the fort of Mulher. In his letter dated 15th September, 1829, the Assistant Collector of Khandesh suggested an invasion against the Dangs Chiefs to check their raids.

1830

Silput Raja of Gadhvi became very turbulent. To suppress the Dang Bhils, all the available force of the Bhil Corps and auxiliary force together with a strong detachment of regular troops marched on the Dangs. A severe and harassing campaign ensued "owing to the excessively difficult nature of the country, the rapid movements of the Bhils and the assistance universally afforded to the Dangs Chiefs by the Gaikwad officers". In order to subjugate them, the British made arrangements to cut off assistance from the Gaikwad officials. Lt. Outram captured Silput Raja and his relatives, dispersed his Naik colleagues and bought over some of the Naiks.

Like Silput Raja, Khem Raja was equally dangerous and the British Government had to deploy a large army to capture him. Khem Raja, however, took to heels and disappeared in the forest.

At this time, the British Government declared a prize of Rs. 1,000 for the capture of Sukhia Naik of the Dangs. One Deshmukh of a village swallowed the bait and got him arrested.

1833

The Naiks of Isania and Huntania started pillaging the villages of the Sultanpur Mahal.

1840-45

Pratap Raja of Amla, south Dangs, allowed his followers to plunder villages under the British administration, and refused to obey the summons of the British magistrate. In 1841, the Bhils looted the Government treasury at Pimpalner in Khandesh. In 1845, Koli Raghoji Bangadia raised a revolt in the Konkan and it was feared that he might enter the Dangs. But as he was captured by Capt. Morris, the trouble did not spread further.

In the meantime, by subterfuge, Capt. Morris brought Dangs Raja Navlu to heel.

1857

During the period of general revolt of 1857 against the British, the Dangs Rajas continued to create trouble. The British employed all stratagems to suppress the Bhils, but they were not successful. At that time, Tatya Tope crossed the Satpuda hills and came to the area near the Tapti. In the south, trouble broke out round-about Nasik. The British feared that the flame of revolt might even envelop the Dangs. The British officers were terribly frightened by the threatened trouble and began to lose hope about suppressing the Dangs Bhils.

Although the trouble on account of the general revolt in 1857 was checked or suppressed in the Dangs and the adjacent areas revolts and depredations continued till 1860. The Dangi people surrendered to the British only after stiff resistance. Thereafter, the people got acquiesced in the British rule. The British military officials tried to strike terror in the hearts of the Dangi people by adopting a three-fold programme of repression, viz., shooting of wild pigs, tigers and Bhils. Bhils were shot dead like wild animals.[1] As a result of the merciless repression, the Dangs Chiefs were quelled and quieted for about twenty years but they suffered from frustration and discontent.

1879-1902

The leased Dangs were notified in 1879 as a reserved forest under the Indian Forest Act, 1878. Cultivation was prohibited in the reserved forest, and constraints were placed on cultivation. As a result, the Dangs Chiefs thought that the reservation of the forests under the law was a step towards depriving them of all their rights in the forest. They, therefore, hastened to cut down forest and to cultivate virgin land in violation of the agreement

1. DWIVEDI MANIBHAI, *Puratan Dakshina Gujarat*, (1940), pp. 1-28.

with the British.[1] To meet the situation, the British Government created a post of the Divisional Forest Officer for the Dangs in 1902 and made him *ex-officio* Assistant Political Agent, Dangs, with magisterial powers.

1907

In September, 1907, the Bhil outbreak occurred at Ahwa. Some Chiefs and Naiks gathered at Ahwa with bows and arrows and for wine, approached a Parsi lady, Dhanbai, who owned a distillery there. She sensed serious trouble and therefore, alerted all Government servants at Ahwa to leave the place immediately. All Government servants stationed at Ahwa thereafter bolted away. The Bhils caused serious damage to private and Government properties at Ahwa. The Amala Raja's son Nilu, was responsible for this unfortunate riot. However, the Gadhvi Raja did not help rioters but offered assistance to the British Government. The Dangs Diwan (Mr. N. M. Deshmukh) came under a cloud and was replaced by another Diwan. The rioters were brought to book.

1911

On 24th April, 1911, the Bhil Chiefs again rose in revolt against the strict enforcement of the provisions of the Indian Forest Act. The disturbances were confined to two areas, the north-east in Derbhavati Dang where Bhil Sonji Kabia was wounded and captured after the murder of a police havaldar, who questioned Sonji's rights to cut trees. and in the south-east, Amala Dang, where the former convict Rajhans, a relative of Amala Raja, was hiding. The trouble in Derbhavati was very serious. There were numerous acts of lawlessness and the firing of the jungles. Arson and murder seemed to have been instigated by a "Kuvar", named Sukria of Kadmal who was a sharer in the subsidy of Derbhavati Dang Raja. The disturbance sparked off as a result of Sonji's arrest. "The Bhils in the locality around Kadmal were in an offensive mood and were setting the forest rules at defiance and likely to subject the officials to violence; that other Bhils of Mokhanamal had robbed the Singana liquor shopkeeper of liquor at midnight after threatening him, had paid half the price and told him that the *Bhils were now sole authority in the Dangs*".[2]

This showed that there was discontent and excitement among the Bhils in the north-east and that Chiefs, who were in receipt of forest subsidies refused to give assistance to Government for protection of forest against fires. The police force in the Dangs was fixed purposely low on the assumption that the Chiefs would render assistance to Government.[3]

1. This question has been dealt with in detail under the Section "Forest Leases".
2. Extract from the report of G. E. Marjoribanks, Assistant Political Agent, Dangs, cited in the Preamble of Bombay Government Resolution, Judicial Department, No. 3350, dated 8th June, 1911.
3. *Annual Administration Report for the Dangs*, 1911-12 and G.R.R.D. No. 9189, dated 29th September, 1911.

1914

Lastly, the Chiefs rose in revolt against the British rule in 1914. The Bhils of the Dangs were excited by World War I, and imagined the Government to be in sore straits. They, therefore, considered it a good opportunity to strike and throw off its yoke. The great damage done by the rats to an otherwise good crop in Pimpri Dang added fuel to fire. An outbreak of incendiarism and general defiance of authority took place in the first week of December, 1914. The Pimpri Naik was the chief actor in the drama and induced the simple Gadhvi Raja, Chief of Amala and some of the smaller Dang Chiefs to join him. Derbhavati and Wasurna Chiefs played a secondary role personally, though some of the Kunvars later on did a lot of burning. Bands of several hundreds of Bhils and others met in several places and began systematic burning of the forests, interfering in several cases with the road construction and other works in the Dangs. Many officers were intimidated but none was put to injury. Fortunately, the forests were too green to burn continuously and only highly exposed plateaux and some southern slopes were completely burnt over an area of about 26 sq. miles. The fires were so widespread that they could be seen nearly all over the Dangs. The British arrested the Pimpri Naik and after his arrest, the resistance fizzled out.[1]

The outbreak started on 4th December, 1914 and was quelled within a fortnight by Marjoribanks, who rushed to Ahwa and displayed military force from Surat, Broach and Khandesh. The Pimpri Naik was tried and sentenced to six months' imprisonment under the Indian Forest Act. The Gadhvi Chief, who surrendered, was let off on condition to surrender his gun. The Amala Raja could not be arrested by Marjoribanks, even though he made a night march to surprise and surround him.[2]

Summing-up

From the foregoing facts, it will appear that the Bhil Chiefs of Dangs loved liberty and freedom much more than anything else in life. They even laid down their lives in resisting foreign or extra-territorial interference in their territory. Their insurrections, raids or forays were not motivated by any idea of territorial acquisition, which they could have done easily in those times of social and political disorder. Their main objective seemed to ward off external interference and procure provisions for their subsistence in the forest and hilly terrain. It was, therefore, the environment which forced them to rise in revolt on the slightest pretext of interference, or

1. *Annual Administration Report for the Dangs*, 1914-15.

2 Vide Political Department letter No. 7467, dated 24th December, 1914 from Secretary, Government of Bo bay to the Political Secretary, Government of India, Foreign and Political Department.

superimposition of external authority. The political and social confusion, infiltration of Gaikwad in the northern villages adjacent to the fort Songadh (1724-1872), the intrusion of the Bhil Corps from Khandesh, the British military cordon to the east (1825-39), the classification of forest into *reserved and protected and the constraints placed on cultivation (1879), strict enforcement of the Indian Forest Act and the out-break of World War I (1914-18),—all these factors sparked off trouble which spread* like wild fire in the Dangs forests. In view of the Bhils' instinct and genious for sturdy independence, the British did not think it politically expedient or administratively practicable to completely crush the Dangs Chiefs. The British primarily took care of their interests in forests and maintained a modicum of administration for law and order in the Dangs. Beyond these, the Dangs Chiefs and people were left alone to fend for themselves. The Dangs Chiefs acquiesced in this position because of their ignorance, illiteracy and lack of political conciousness and administrative ability.

(2) FOREST LEASES

In normal circumstances, forest leases do not deserve serious notice. But in the case of the Dangs forests, the circumstances were abnormal and pregnant with political possibilities. In the early stages of their rule, the British took forest leases from the Chiefs and Naiks of the Dangs. They enabled the British to establish political superintendence over the Dangs area. As stated before, with the acquisition of Khandesh in 1818, the British contact with the Dangs commenced. At that time, the Dangs Chiefs lived upon depredations in the surrounding territories. On the east and south-east, the Dangs touched the British territory of Khandesh. In order to prevent depredations from the Dangs Bhils, the British maintained a military cordon on the western boundary of Khandesh. Various insurrections and depredations of the Dangs Chiefs have been dealt with in detail in the previous section. The details about these disturbances were reported to the Court of Directors of the East India Company in England.

In 1838, mention about the timber of the Dangs was made for the first time. Till that year (1838), the East India Company's Timber Agent at Surat would appear to have bought teak for the Royal Naval Dock Yards of Bombay in the local markets of Surat and Bilimora. This timber was obtained from the Dangs, whose Rajas allowed anyone to cut timber on payment of a few pice collected at their check *nakas*. This trade was naturally in the hands of the Parsi, Hindu and Muslim inhabitants of the Bulsar-Navsari-Surat region.

In 1839, however, the Company appears to have found this free trade unsatisfactory or disadvantageous, for they asked Mr. Roberts, the Government Timber Agent at Surat to go personally into the Dangs and try to effect a lease of these forests.

In 1840, the Court of Directors desired that some steps should be taken to civilize and reclaim and bring under control these wild tribes, if the British were to have political supremacy over the areas round about Khandesh. It was felt that such control could be obtained if the British *got leases of forests in the Dangs. Leases were sought mainly for the purpose of giving the British a hold over the territory.*

The Dangs area derived (and derives) its chief value and importance from the extensive rich teak forests. The forests were almost the only marketable assets of the Chiefs. The Chiefs of Dangs used to lease out their forests to the timber merchants of Surat, who had acquired the monopoly of the timber trade. The British alleged that the Dangs Chiefs were exploited by the Surat businessmen. Under this pretext, the proposal for taking the lease of the Dangs forests was put forward by the British in 1840.

The supply of timber for ship-building in Bombay from northern forests of the Presidency had fallen off. For supplying timber to the Bombay dock-yard, negotiations were initiated in 1841 by Mr. Boyce, Timber Agent, under the Commissioner for the northern forests. Some Chiefs suspected the motives of the British and were, therefore, not willing to lease the forests. Bapu Rakhsya, the Gaikwad's Ijardar of the Songadh Mahal had many friends among the Bhil Chiefs and some of them, who were suspicious of the British policy, were persuaded to hold back and keep their forests in their hands. Because of these difficulties, Government entrusted these negotiations to the Collector of Khandesh (vide letter No. 754, dated the 7th April, 1843).[1] The Collector deputed Capt. Morris, Bhil Agent, to meet Mr. Boyce, who obtained with difficulty the consent of the main Chiefs of Gadhvi, Pimpri and Wasurna to the forest leases.[2]

The objectives of the forest leases were (i) to obtain teak timber required for the navy, (ii) to remove the timber merchants of Surat from direct relations with the Dangis with the alleged aim of extricating them (Dangis) from the clutches of the money-lenders and timber merchants, (iii) to cut short the growing political influence of the Gaikwad in the Dangs, and (iv) thereby to secure direct administrative control over the Dangs territory. It was, therefore, not by any means a speculation in timber, when the British tried to obtain the forest leases from the Dangs Chiefs. The stakes involved seemed to be very substantial.

In 1842, the Dangi Chiefs executed the leases with Mr. H. N. Reeves, Collector of Khandesh on behalf of the East India Company. The leases

1. Bomanji K. R., *Dang Boundary Dispute*, compiled under the orders of the Government of Bombay, (1903), Preface.

2. It was alleged by the British that the Dangs Chiefs were too willing to grant leases of the forests, as they were very much harassed by the private timber contractors to whom they had previously leased their forests. The timber trade was the monopoly of the traders from Surat.

were executed for 16 years in the first instance on an annual payment of Rs. 11,230 to the Bhil Chiefs. They covered forests in 446 villages, in 35 villages of which the Gaikwad had a share. The Dangs of Kirli in which there were 13 co-shared villages and *Shivbara in which there were 3 co-shared villages, were not included in the leases of 1842.*[1] The terms and conditions of the leases were as under :

(1) The whole of the timber tract was to be made over to the East India Company, which was to have full and sole power to conserve and cut down any timber of whatever sort or plant any other timber in the said area.

(2) The Company was to have the exculsive power of establishing *nakas* for levying all taxes on the timber or other articles which might be carried from the said area by land or by water.

(3) It was empowered to clear land at its pleasure and to provide land for cultivation with a view to improvement of the area.

(4) The revenues obtained from the cultivated parcel of lands were to be settled by the British Government and were to be received by the Dangs Chiefs.

(5) It was also empowered to provide for the transit of the timber to the coast by improving the roads or by making new ones, if necessary.

(6) It could give up the forest by giving six months' notice to enable the Chiefs to make other arrangement and the Timber Agent to carry off the cut timber.

(7) The Dangs Chiefs were permitted to cut and carry the bamboos or rafters required for their private use only.

(8) The annual lease-money was specified in each forest lease and was payable in 4 instalments by the Timber Agent to the Mukhtyar of the Chiefs.

(9) The Chiefs should not offer obstruction to the Timber Agent of the British Government, but assist him in all possible ways in the performance of his duties.

(10) If the Dangis offered themselves for the task of cutting timber, the Timber Agent had to give employment to them on remuneration on the lines of others employed by him.

1. The Forest Lease of 1842 is reproduced as Annexure I as it has considerable historical importance.

(11) The lease was for 16 years. On expiry of the period, it was open to the Company to take out another lease on such terms as then appeared equitable under the altered conditions of the timber forest.

The management of the forests was transferred from Surat to Khandesh and after considerable correspondence, the leases were executed from the Rajas of Gadhvi, Amala, Wasurna, Derbhavati, and Naiks of Avchar, Chinchli and Ghaded by the Collector and the Political Agent, Khandesh, on May 14, 1845.

As stated before, the object of the leases was to give the British Government some standing or position in the Dangs in order to enable them to pacify and reclaim turbulent Bhil Chiefs. The regular income which the Chiefs received from the forest lease-money kept them quiet so that they ceased to raid the terrain surrounding the Dangs. Further, the British settled in 1825-28 the amounts of blackmail payable by the Gaikwad, Surgana, Bansda and the British themselves. Thus, by the settlement of the Dang Chiefs' *haks* by the British, the expenditure likely to be incurred on punitive expeditions against the Bhils by the British was saved. However, the grant of the first leases led to collsion between the Forest Officers of the British Government and the officials of the Gaikwad in the Dangs and for some time, subsequent to that period, the rights of the Gaikwad in the Dangs were not questioned by the Bhil Chiefs. But when they realised the benefits offered by the British protection and as the Gaikwad officials began to oppress them (Dangis), it became necessary to define the rights of the Gaikwad in the Dangs. This problem is dealt with in the next section.

As stated before, the 1842-leases did not cover the entire Dangs territory. As a result, with the consent of the Chiefs, the Gaikwad granted in 1858 to a railway contractor the right to cut wood in the forest of the co-shared villages of Kirli and Shivbara for 3 years. The Gaikwad's right to lease forests in the Dangs was first contested by the British, but was later acquiesced under protest. On expiry of the 3-year lease-period, the British, therefore, included the forests of Kirli and Shivbara when the leases of 1842 were renewed in 1862 by them.

In 1862, the leases were renewed by Mr. Ashburner, Collector of Khandesh with practically the same conditions.[1] But some refinements in the conditions were made. This gave the British exclusive right to protect, cut, plant or dispose of the timber in the forests, etc., on the lines of the original leases of 1842. These leases were not artistically drawn and did not define the rights and powers of the lessees or the limits of forests to

1. Vide Government Resolution No. 577, dated 15th February, 1862 cited in the *Working Plan for the Dangs Forests*, by G. E. Marjoribanks, Divisional Forest Officer, Dangs.

which they could operate. But four new conditions were added to the renewed leases. Firstly, in constitution of the reserved forests, sufficient land for cultivation should be left outside the forests so reserved and that Rajas and Naiks would be allowed to use trees outside the reserved forests for agricultural and domestic purposes. Secondly, the Dangs Chiefs and Naiks could not alienate their estates without the sanction of the British. They could not mortgage, sell or alienate their *watan* land or *khunta* allowance or any other privileges to any one residing in the British or the Gaekwad territory or elsewhere without the sanction of the British Government. If this condition was violated, the alienation was to be deemed as null and void. Thirdly, the total amount of rent payable by the Timber Agent to the Chiefs was raised to Rs. 13,039 which was then considered very generous. This amount was payable only in two instalments from the year 1861-62. Fourthly, the leases were executed in perpetuity in order to prevent the local Rajas being oppressed by the Baroda Agents and to prevent them from putting forward extravagant claims to rights in the Dangs.[1]

One more forest lease of Dang Wadiawan was executed in 1867. Thereafter, the British Government became the lessee of all the forests in the Dangs and thereby obtained full control over the Dangs.

In 1889, the Dangs were 'settled' and the Dangs forests were divided into reserved and protected forests. Cultivation was forbidden in the reserved forests. This was according to the terms of the revised leases of 1862. To compensate the Chiefs for restricting cultivation to the remaining area (protected forests), the Chiefs' annual lease-money was raised by 33·1/3 per cent to Rs. 17,859 in 1893. However, the reservation of the forests so made remained nominal for many years, as the Chiefs and their people conceived it as the thin end of the wedge to deprive them of their rights. They, therefore, hastened to cut down and cultivate more virgin forest lands. This was in violation of the terms of the lease. In order to put an end to such wanton destruction of the forests, the Government in 1902 created a post of a Divisional Forest Officer at Surat and made him an *ex-officio* Assistant Political Agent for the Dangs with powers of a First Class Magistrate. The result of making the Divisional Forest Officer responsible for the proper maintenance of the forests and the welfare of the people brought the Dangs territory under complete control of the Forest Department. Cultivation was restricted to the protected forests, incidence of fire decreased and the forests began to fill up again. These forests which were formerly overrun by fire twice or thrice in a season, obtained almost complete protection from fire after the appointment of the Divisional Forest Officer.

Mr. Hodgson. who was the first Divisional Forest Officer, Dangs, became also the first Assistant Political Agent, Dangs. During his term of

1. The Forest Lease of 1862 is given as Annexure II.

administration, he organised the police and generally made the administration efficient. Not only this but Mr. Hodgson, by a policy of conciliation and tact, obtained consent of the people to a revision of the forest settlement, whereby 114 sq. miles were added to the area of the reserved forests and the remaining area was classed as protected forests. This was sanctioned by the Government in 1911 and was the final settlement in the Dangs.

As the leased forests by then began to yield higher net profits, the amounts of subsidies or the lease-money payable to the Chiefs were, as a matter of grace, increased by 50 per cent to Rs. 26,921 in 1923.[1]

Thus, it will appear that these leases gave the British a general administrative control over the Dangs, without actually taking away the nominal sovereignty of the Chiefs particularly in their control of land revenue. It will also be clear that the Dangs leases were perpetual, only the Government having the right of termination. Rents payable to the Chiefs were nominal out of proportion to the huge profits made by the British. This could be possible because of the ignorance and improvidence of the Chiefs. This was quite apparent because the British were making large profits from Rs. 2 lakhs to Rs. 3 lakhs after payment of a trivial lease-money to the Chiefs. In executing the leases, the relations between the British and the Chiefs appear to have been mainly commercial. The Dangs Chiefs entered into a business transaction whereby on payment of a fixed annual rental, they made over the management of their forests to the Bombay Government. The leases were thus one-sided and led to the exploitation of the simple Chieftains of the Dangs.

After the transfer of the political control of the Dangs State to the Government of India in April 1933, the question of appropriation of the surplus revenue from the Dangs forests cropped up. With it, there cropped up the need for termination of the forest leases executed in 1862. After due consideration, the Government of India decided that the leases should be terminated with effect from 1st April, 1937 and the forests should be worked departmentally for the benefit of the Chiefs and their inhabitants. It was also decided that any surplus revenue should not be appropriated for the purpose of the Central Government or for the administration of any other territory; but the fund called the Dangs Local Fund should be created with effect from 1st April, 1937 for the development of the territory and benefit of the Chiefs and their inhabitants. Thus ended the forest leases executed in 1842.

To sum up, the forest leases were executed by the British with the main objective of obtaining timber for the shipping yard in Bombay and to get thereby a foot-hold in the administration of the Dangs territory. It

1 Vide G. R. R. D. No. 4534, dated 25th April, 1923.

is on the records that these objectives were fully secured by the British. Since the entire area was covered by the revised leases of 1862, the monopoly of the timber merchants of Surat was abolished and the Gaikwad's political ambitions were cut short. With the economic and political competitors removed from the field, the British had to tackle only the Chiefs and Naiks of the Dangs. Since the Chiefs got a fixed annual subsidy from the forest leases from the British, they thought less of raids and inroads into the neighbouring territories for obtaining their livelihood. As they were ignorant and improvident, they got reconciled to the administrative and political control of the British. In short, the forest lease-holders became the *de facto* rulers of the Dangs. Thus, the Chiefs and Naiks of the Dangs bartered their spirit of adventure and effective political control for a mess of pottage in the form of forest subsidies and *toda giras* allowances. Although the legal fiction of political sovereignty of the Dangs Chiefs and Naiks was maintained, their effective administrative control and political jurisdiction passed into the hands of the British.

(3) The Gaikwad's Claims in the Dangs

After execution of the forest leases the Gaikwad felt that his rights to revenue in the Dangs were jeopardised. He, therefore, put forth claims as sovereign power as successor Government to the Peshwa. The British considered the Gaikwad's claims in depth by holding special enquiries either by individual officers or by commissions. The Gaikwad's claims and the British enquiries constitute a landmark in the history of the Dangs, and are, therefore, dealt with in detail.

Historical Background—In the early period of the Maratha rule, Khanderao Dabhade over-ran Gujarat in 1705, and imposed a tribute upon its inhabitants. After his death in 1721, the affairs of Gujarat were managed by Pilajirao, who was the founder of the dynasty of the Gaikwads of Baroda. He built a fort at Songadh and made it the capital of the Gaikwad. Songadh remained his headquarters till 1761, when the capital of the Gaikwad was shifted to Patan in the north Gujarat. Pilajirao was succeeded by his son, Damajirao II, in 1732. In 1734, Damajirao captured Baroda and by the middle of the century, established the Gaikwad's supremacy in Gujarat after defeating the Mughal Viceroy. The Peshwas became the virtual rulers after the death of Shahu, (the fourth king of Satara) in 1749. Damajirao, who did not approve of the policy of the Peshwas, challenged their authority. In the internal war that followed, Damajirao was taken prisoner by the Peshwa and was released only when he ceded half of Gujarat. He then entered into an alliance with the Peshwa and later on they jointly attacked and captured Ahmedabad in 1753. Thereafter, the Mughal power disintegrated in Gujarat and the political power came to be divided between the Peshwa and the Gaikwad.[1]

1. Chavada V. K., *The Gaikwads and the British, their Problems, 1800-1920*, (1961).

Because of the proximity of Songadh to the Dangs, the Gaikwad came in close touch with the Dangs Chiefs and their territory. Due to the absence of any other political power, geographical proximity and political confusion, the Gaikwad got a free hand to spread his political influence over the Dangs. In 1818, the East India Company came into the picture. Before that, the Gaikwad was the most influential power in this part of the area. Thus, during the period of about a century, (from 1724 to 1818) the Gaikwad managed to acquire certain rights in some of the villages in the Dangs. Direct documentary evidence was, however, not forthcoming as to how the Gaikwad came to acquire those rights. In this connection, the First Commission of 1867 observed : "No reliable information regarding the early history of Dangs is obtainable, and the steps by which the Gaikwad acquired influence and the rights therein are not known. The Chiefs have kept no records or account whatever and Gaikwad's Durbar have neither Sanads, documents nor accounts to show how His Highness became possessed of shares in co-shared villages. There can be no doubt, however, that the Gaikwad's rights and privileges were acquired and have been extended by degrees."[1]

(i) *Conquest of the Dangs*--The Gaikwad traced the origin of his rights in the Dangs to his conquest of Gujarat and maintained that he enjoyed these rights as a sovereign power in Gujarat. He urged that the Dangs Chiefs were never sovereign or independent but were under the political control of the Gaikwad. But he could not produce any positive proof in support of his conquest of the Dangs.

The Bombay Government rejected the Gaikwad's claim in the Dangs as conqueror of Gujarat on the ground that there was no historical evidence to show that the Dangs were ever conquered by the Gaikwad. Secondly, the Dangs Chiefs were the original lords of the land and were so powerful that no native Government was ever able to control or subdue them or to establish over them a semblance of political superiority. Thirdly, the Gaikwad's payment of *toda giras* to the Dangs Chiefs proved to the hilt that the Dangs Chiefs were not subordinate to him (the Gaikwad). On the basis of these considerations, the Bombay Government concluded that there was no evidence of any conquest of the Dangs by the Gaikwad.[2]

(ii) *Flag at Gadhvi*—The Gaikwad supported his right in the Dangs as the Gaikwad's flag flew over Gadhvi, the former capital of the Dangs. He claimed that his flag at Gadhvi was an emblem of his authority and signified his political superiority. From the Chief's own account, the flag flew at

1. *Memorandum of Appeal from the Baroda State to the Secretary of State for India in the Dangs Case*, Vol. II, (1888), p. 398.

2. OMMANNEY, Acting Collector and Political Agent, Khandesh, quoted in *Selections from the Records of the Baroda Government*, No. X, Vol. 1, *Dang Case*, (1891), p. 170.

Gadhvi from the time of Janak Raja, who was alive in Samvat 1853 (A. D. 1797), and was renewed by the Gaikwad every year with the customary ceremonies. Such flying of the flag continued till about 1871 when its renewal was prevented by the British Officers.

This was a substantial point in favour of the Gaikwad, because the flag usually indicated the dominance of the political power to which it belonged. But Mr. Duff, Political Agent, Khandesh, rejected this plea by stating that the right to fly the flag "seems to have originated in a former Gaikwad having insisted on Janak Raja flying his flag at Gadhvi until a certain loan was paid off" and as "it is not contended now that any portion of the loan is unpaid" he recommended that "His Highness should be required to haul down his Flag".

(iii) *Maps*--The Baroda State argued that the maps prepared by or under the authority of the British Government recognised the connection of the Baroda Government with the Dangs territory. For instance, in the map prepared by Major Graham, in about 1830, the Dangs were shown as entirely outside the British territory and within the territory indicated by yellow colour as the Gaikwad territory. This map was also corroborated by other maps of the Bombay Revenue Survey between 1850 and 1870. However, the Bombay Government rejected this argument on the ground that these maps were incomplete and inaccurate.

Thus, almost all the arguments put forth by the Gaikwad in support of his rights in the Dangs were rejected by the Bombay Government. It was not that all his arguments were illogical or baseless, but the officils of the Bombay Government were guided purely by the British interests and political expediency in the Dangs forests and wanted to exclude the Gaikwad from taking any active part in the Dangs affairs. They feared that if the Gaikwad's claims were accepted, some day he might drive a wedge in the Dangs and obtain possession of the Dangs forests. Such fear was actually expressed by Mr. Shuttleworth, the Conservator of Forests :

"The Rajas or Dang Chiefs are wild, untutored, half-naked savages, who exercise no authority and possess no influence; they are either habitual drunkards, or else are given to smoking intoxicating drugs. It is from these men that Government lease the forests. And it is, I respectfully submit, a matter for serious consideration the very slight hold we have on the Dangs, and how easily our connection with the country can be severed and this valuable forest made to pass out of our hands. As Dr. Gibson very truly remarked, documentary proof can be obtained for a few pice. In a drunken moment, which may happen any day, the Dang Rajas might sign away the whole of their property; and, on the expiration of the current lease, another owner would step in and take possession. It would not only benefit the country but the people, if the Dangs were brought under the direct

management of Government, and the Dangs Chieftains would, I believe, be *only too happy to find themselves on the pension roll of Government, relieved of the weight and cares of State.*"[1]

Although the British Government did not accept the enjoyment of rights by the Gaikwad in the Dangs as sovereign or superior political power, they recognised the fact that the Gaikwad had some limited rights in the co-shared villages in the Dangs. The Government, however, contended that these limited rights were acquired and enjoyed by the Baroda State as a Jagirdar or a grantee holding under the Dangs Chiefs and not as superior political power, as claimed by the Gaikwad.

The Gaikwad strongly objected to this concept of a Jagirdar and urged that there was no historical evidence or record to show that the Gaikwad was a Jagirdar or grantee holding under the Dangs Chiefs. He pointed out that the stand of the Bombay Government was inconsistent because on the one hand, the British expected the Baroda Government to produce documents and *sanads* to prove his claim and rejected the Gaikwad's claims on the ground that he (Gaikwad) did not possess the same and on the other hand, they (British) accepted the oral statements of the Dangs Chiefs though they were not supported by historical evidence, written documents or *sanads*.

Thus the British did not accept the Gaikwad's claim that his rights in the Dangs were the result of his sovereign status, but accepted certain rights in the co-shared villages only.

Co-shared Villages

The Gaikwad's rights in the co-shared villages of the Dangs centred round three main issues :

(i) the number of co-shared villages,

(ii) his rights in these villages, and

(iii) the demarcation of the boundaries between the territories of the Gaikwad and the Dangs Chiefs.

(i) *The Number of Co-shared Villages*

When the East India Company obtained the lease of the Dangs forests in 1842, the Gaikwad laid claim to some of these forests on the ground that the Dangs Chiefs were not the sole proprietors of the Dangs, as he

1. *Memorandum of Appeal from the Baroda State to the Secretary of State for India in the Dangs Case*, Vol. II, (1888), p. 395, (Italics are ours).

was a co-sharer in 53 villages. In 1862, the Gaikwad submitted another list in which the number of co-shared villages was given as 51.

Since the Gaikwad's rights were uncertain and undefined, the British Government appointed two Commissions to inquire into and report on the rights of the Gaikwad in the Dangs. The First Commission was appointed in 1867 and consisted of Mr. Pritchard, First Assistant Collector of Khandesh and Lt. Reeves, the Assistant Resident at Baroda. Another Commission was appointed in 1872 consisting of Capt. Hancock, Assistant Resident at Baroda and Mr. Muller, Assistant Political Agent, Khandesh.

The First Commission of 1867 did not touch the issue of the co-shared villages on the ground that there was a difference between the lists of co-shared villages given by the Gaikwad and the Dangs Chiefs. The Commission, therefore, could not go into this question. The Second Commission of 1872, however, inquired into this issue. After long and close enquiry, the Commission framed an authoritative list of 52 co-shared villages. The Commission expunged two villages, viz., Jhoddar and Dankpara or Jonkpada from the Gaikwad's list and added three villages, making the number of co-shared villages 52. The Government of Bombay accepted this list of 52 co-shared villages as authoritative.

(ii) *The Gaikwad's Rights in Co-shared Villages*

After settling the number of co-shared villages, the question of the Gaikwad's rights therein was considered. The Gaikwad claimed a full half-share in revenue and jurisdiction of all sorts with specification of (1) forests rights, (2) establishment at discretion of the *nakas* for collecting duties on timber ; (3) collection of customs and transit duties on other goods ; (4) issue of licences for the distillation and sale of liquor, and (5) revenue and criminal jurisdiction.

Out of the five claims only two claims—the forest rights and criminal jurisdiction were vital. The Commissions, therefore, mainly considered these two claims at length.

(a) *The First Commission of 1867*

Forest Rights

Before the First Commission, the following arguments were put forward by the Gaikwad in support of his claims.

The Gaikwad claimed half share from the forest revenue of all co-shared villages. By custom, he had always shared whatever forest revenue was collected. In several documents which had been drawn up at different

times, his right to half share in the forests had been specifically acknowledged. These documents included the following :

(i) copies of extracts of accounts from Samvat year 1866 (1810 A. D.) to Samvat year 1919 (1863 A. D.) showing the amount of forest revenue derived from the co-shared villages under the heading 'Transit duties'.

(ii) *copies of the two yadis, dated 15th June, 1853 from the Chiefs of* Gadhvi and Derbhavati *detailing the number, names and distribution of* the Khalsa, Inam and co-shared villages in their respective Dangs in which it was expressly stated that the Gaikwad had a share in the forest revenues of 21 villages in Dang Gadhvi and in 14 villages in Dang Derbhavati.

(iii) the deposition of Krishnaji Nilkanth, Karkun of the Baglan Deshmukh in December 1853, before Major Morris to the effect that the Gaikwad enjoyed half share in the forest revenue as well as land revenue and transit duties in the co-shared villages.

(iv) an admission by Mr. Mansfield, Collector of Khandesh in his report to Government dated 21st June, 1854, to the effect that "The number of villages whose forests are leased to the Hon. Company are 446 of which the forest rights of 35 are in part alienated to His Highness the Gaekwar".

The Commission rejected these arguments on the following grounds :

(i) As regards forest revenue, the Commission found that such fees were not levied specifically on the timber coming out of the co-shared villages only, and that they were even levied on those coming from the Chiefs' own Khalsa villages.

(ii) What the Chiefs meant in the *yadis* quoted by the Gaikwad was the *naka* revenue only and not the forest revenue. The Commission felt that this was "not altogether an unfair interpretation".[1]

(iii) The Commission quoted the same Karkun, Krishnaji Nilkanth as having stated before them that he could not speak 'positively' about the Gaikwad's rights. The Commission deemed this statement as contradicting his earlier statement and, therefore, of little evidentiary value.

(iv) The admission made by Mr. Mansfield in his report should be taken "rather as the impression on his mind than as his deliberate decision on the question". Mr. Mansfield had not made any formal enquiry in the matter and, therefore, his impression could not be a substitute for proof.

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1. Bomanji K. R., *Dang Boundary Dispute*, compiled under the orders of the Government of Bombay, (1903), p. 3.

Further, the Commission quoted the Chiefs, who stated that neither they nor their forefathers had ever alienated any share of their forest produce to the Gaikwad. This together with the fact that no objection was lodged by the Gaikwad for nearly ten years after the British took the forest lease was deemed by the British as proof that the Gaikwad's claim was a 'new one' and was not in existence in the past.

The Commission, therefore, concluded that the Gaikwad had failed to establish rights in forest except the right of deriving revenue from wood passing through the *nakas*. This view was endorsed by the Government.[1]

Jurisdictional Rights

The Gaikwad claimed complete revenue and police jurisdiction over all co-shared villages. As regards revenue jurisdiction, the Gaikwad asserted that in Sinund and Malangdeo group of villages, he had settled Jamabandi and collected revenue according to that settlement. The Commission did not accept this argument, as it was not backed up by any proof. There was not a single case in which the Gaikwad had exercised any of these powers. It found that the only revenue jurisdiction exercised by the Gaikwad related to the collection of his share of the revenue. As regards the police jurisdiction, the Commission found that the Gaikwad had never exercised such jurisdiction except in the form of fines which were levied in three co-shared villages only

Other Rights

The Gaikwad's rights about *abkari* and transit duties were not disputed by the Commission.

After making an exhaustive inquiry extending over three months, the Commission submitted its report to the Government of Bombay in June, 1867. Thereupon, the Government passed a Resolution[2] about the Gaikwad's claims in the Dangs which is reproduced in Annexure III.

According to the Government Resolution of 1868, the Government conceded only the Gaikwad's right of deriving revenue from wood passing through the *nakas*. The other rights particularly about the jurisdiction in the Dangs were stoutly opposed or negatived. In lieu of his rights in the Dangs, the British Government proposed to guarantee to the Gaikwad a sum of Rs. 950 annually.

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1. G. R. No. 3190, dated 21st November, 1868 of the Political Department, Government of Bombay, cited in *Dang Boundary Dispute*, compiled by K. R. Bomanji, (1903), pp. 8-9.

2. Government Resolution No. 3190, Political Department, Government of Bombay, dated 21st November, 1868.

(b) *The Second Commission of 1872*

After the issue of the Government Resolution, of 1868, the matters did not settle down. The oppression of the Gaikwad officials and encroachments in the Dangs territory continued. The Dangs Chiefs continued their agitation against the oppression of the Gaikwad officials. In 1871 the Government, therefore, ordered the Commissioners of 1867 to submit a further report supplementary to the first one. But before these orders could take effect, these officers had been transferred and eventually Capt. Hancock, Assistant Resident at Baroda, and Mr. Muller, a Forest Officer and Assistant Political Agent, Khandesh, were appointed to inquire into the claims. These officers made thorough enquiries and submitted their report to Government.

The Commission considered *inter alia,* the following claims of the Gaikwad :

(i) the framing of an authoritative list of co-shared villages within the Dangs,

(ii) the definition of the rights of the Gaikwad to transit duties therein.

(iii) the definition of the right of the Gaikwad to establish liquor shops therein,

(iv) the right of the Gaikwad to fly his flag at Gadhvi, and

(v) the demarcation of the boundary between the territories of the Gaikwad and the Dangs Chiefs.

(i) As regards the list of the co-shared villages, the First Commission did not go into the question. The Second Commission, however, prepared an authoritative list of 52 co-shared villages, after long and minute inquiries within the Dangs, consulting all the Rajas and their Karbharis, comparing all the lists produced by the parties and locating all the villages. The Government of Bombay accepted the list as authoritative.[1] (vide Annexure IV).

(ii) As regards transit duties, the Commission differed from the views expressed by the First Commission and agreed with the Gaikwad's stand that transit duties were tantamount to a share in the forest revenues. It found that the Gaikwad had recovered his share of profits from the co-shared villages by levying transit duties. The Gaikwad's right to levy timber fees and royalties as their share of profits was thus recognised. It was, however, made clear that he had no right to levy transit duties on wood

1. Bomanji K. R., *Dang Boundary Dispute*, compiled under the orders of the Government of Bombay. (1903), p. 3.

from other villages when it passed through the co-shared villages. As regards levying transit duties on articles other than timber, the Commission held that the Gaikwad had no such right as such duties could be levied by the paramount power alone.

(iii) As regards the Gaikwad's right to establish liquor shops, the Commission seemed to recognise his right in theory but deemed it a matter of police administration, which was not under the Gaikwad but under the British Government or the Chiefs themselves. Thus the Gaikwad's right about liquor shop was not recognised.

(iv) The Gaikwad's flag was flying at Gadhvi since Janak Raja's time as a compliment to the Baroda Government. The Gadhvi Chief had taken objection to the flying of the flag on the ground that the debt incurred by the Janak Raja had already been redeemed and that the Gaikwad, therefore, ceased to have any right to fly his flag there. The Commission took the view that the Gadhvi Chief was bound to maintain the compliment, but felt that as the British Government was the reigning power at that time, it was left to them whether or not to permit a foreign flag to fly in the Dangs.

(v) Lastly, about the problem of the boundary demarcation, the Commission desired that the whole boundary between the Gaikwad and the Dangs Chiefs should be surveyed and accurately mapped.

In order to prevent disputes in future, the Commission suggested that the Gaikwad's rights in the Dangs should be either purchased or exchanged by giving him a few villages in full sovereignty on the borders of the Songadh Mahal.

This report was severely criticized by the Commissioner, Mr. Ashburner, formerly Political Agent, Khandesh, as well as by Mr. Pritchard, member of the First Commission on the ground that the Commission covered the ground which was never intended to be covered, and had arrived at conclusions which were erroneous. After considerable delay and correspondence, the report of 1872 was disposed of and the Government of Bombay passed orders in Government Resolution, Political Department No. 1806, dated 19th April, 1879. This Government Resolution is reproduced in Annexure V to this chapter.

This Resolution was a landmark in the history of the Dangs, as it decided the rights of the Gaikwad *vis-a-vis* the Dangs Chiefs and the British Government. The Government of India ultimately decided that "though it must be admitted that the Gaikwad enjoys certain proprietary rights in the timber grown in the co-shared villages, (there is) no justification for the assertion of the Gaikwad's right to interfere in the management of the

forests or to establish tolls for the collection of timber or other transit dues within the territories of the Chiefs of the Dangs"; that "His Highness possesses no rights within the territory of the Dangs beyond the right of a limited share in certain forest produce; and the assumption of His Highness' agents to exercise powers which, in fact, have never belonged to him is one which cannot in any way be recognised." It was proposed that the forest rights which His Highness possessed being "so vague and ill-defined as to be incapable of correct valuation, a sum of Rs. 950 be guaranteed to him permanently in lieu of his uncertain and ill-defined rights." As to the right to levy customs or *abkari* revenue within any portion of the Dangs, the Government held that it "appears to rest on no evidence whatever and must be disallowed."[1]

(c) *The Gaikwad's Appeal to Government of India*

Aggrieved by these orders in 1879, the Gaikwad submitted to the Government of India a memorandum of appeal for reconsidering the above orders. The Baroda Government urged that the reports submitted by the two Commissions were unauthentic, as the information obtained was from interested parties and that the Government of India was, therefore, wrong in deciding that the Gaikwad had no right at any time to interfere in the management of the co-shared villages. The Gaikwad felt that the British Government was bent upon keeping him (Gaikwad) totally out of the Dangs. Secondly, the points of disputes were investigated by officers of the Bombay Presidency with a biased mind and that "the enquiry was conducted altogether from a British point of view. At the very outset, a wrong assumption was made that the Gaikwad was a grantee or Jahagirdar under the Dang Rajas."[2] In the circumstances, the Gaikwad felt that the question of his rights was disposed of without adequate inquiries and evidence by the Government of Bombay and the Government of India. He, therefore, requested reconsideration of the Government orders in respect of his rights in the Dangs.

In preparing the appeal, the Gaikwad adduced the following additional evidence.

(1) *Forest Rights*

Besides re-emphasising his rights as a co-proprietor in the Dangs, the Gaikwad further contended that on the principle laid down by the Privy Council about the forest rights, forests went with the villages to which they

1. Letter No. 5931 of 1884 from Major General J. Watson, Agent to the Governor General at Baroda to the Minister of the Baroda State. *Memorandum of Appeal from the Baroda State to the Secretary of State for India in the Dangs Case*, Vol. II, (1888), p. 459.

2. Letter No. 5910, dated 12th April. 1888, from Shri Luxuman Gaikwad, *Ibid.*, 387.

were known to be appurtenant.[1] The Gaikwad reminded the Government of India that this principle was also recognised by the Second Commission which said :

"We should point to the universal custom in the Dangs amongst the Bhils themselves when they divided the villages. With the share of a village given in Jahagir or in any other way, a share in the profits of the wood invariably goes too ; and when the Gaikwad got his shares of all the villages, we cannot doubt but that those shares included too a share in the forest gains; in fact many of the villages he gained were but pure jungle at the time, and are so still. What other gains could be expected from those ?"[2]

Further, in 1828, when the claims of the Gadhvi Chief were settled by the British authorities in Khandesh there was a mention about the Gaikwad's share in the forest revenue, in the following words :

"In the aforesaid villages you (Gadhvi Raja) should take half the proceeds (*ootpan*) being your half share therein and the Gaikwad Sirkar who had half share, would take his moiety. As regards duties on wood, Rupees two-and-quarter is levied at the Nakas of Bardipada, Chiklde, Khobrae Amba, Bhatkhat, Kakarda and others. Of this, one-half share belongs to the Gaikwad Sirkar, to whom it should be given, the other half being given, to you (Gadhvi Raja) and the Bhils subordinate to you."[3]

The Gaikwad also cited the statement given to Major Morris, Bhil Agent in Khandesh by the Chief of Gadhvi wherein he specified the villages (i) which were his sole possessions, (ii) which were alienated by Rajas as Jahagirs and (iii) which were co shared with the Gaikwad. About these co-shared villages, he said that the Gaikwad's share was "in the revenue of land (Kali) and timber (lakday), etc."[4]

Similarly, the Chief of Derbhavati admitted before the First Commission that the Gaikwad shared equally in arable and waste land including jungles (forests)[5]. What was leased by the British in 1842 was not the entire forest area but only that which was in possession of the Gadhvi

1. *Memorandum of Appeal from the Baroda State to the Secretary of State for India in the Dangs Case*, Vol. II, (1888), p. 414

2. *Ibid.*, p. 415,

3. *Ibid.*, p. 414.

4. *Ibid.*, p. 418.

5. *Ibid.*, p. 419.

Chief. This was evidenced by the fact that the forests of Kirli and Shivbara were not included in the forest leases of 1842, which were leased out by the Gaikwad subsequently.

Against this, the British argued that there was no evidence to show that the Gaikwad's acquisition of interest in the co-shared villages included any right to interfere with the local management of the forests or to derive revenue from such management. It was held that it was impossible for the Gaikwad to take any part in their internal arrangements which involved the constant presence of his officials.

The Bhil Chiefs believed that neither they nor their forefathers had ever alienated to the Gaikwad any rights in the forests. They admitted that the Gaikwad might levy duty on timber at *nakas*, but this admission left open the question about places where the *nakas* should be and whether the Gaikwad had the right at his discretion to establish any *naka* in any co-shared village.

(2) *Levy of Customs Duties*

The Gaikwad claimed a right to levy transit customs duties in the co-shared villages on all traffic which passed through these villages and to adopt such measures as might be necessary to secure such revenue. He quoted Mr. Melvill, Agent to the Governor General at Baroda who said in 1884, that "The Gaikwad's right to levy customs or transit duties in the co-shared villages is, in my opinion clearly established "[1]

The Government of India rejected the Gaikwad's right to levy transit duties, as they felt that his claim rested on no evidence whatever.

(3) *Abkari Revenue*

The Gaikwad urged that his rights in the co-shared villages and forests included his right to Abkari revenue in those co-shared villages and to establish liquor shops in these areas.

The First Commission of 1867 had accepted the Gaikwad's right in this respect. The Second Commission of 1872 also apparently admitted this right. However, it recorded that it was a question of police administration whether the exercise of that right should be permitted, as the liquor shops were closed on British Government assuming jurisdiction in the Dangs. It was, therefore, held that the Gaikwad could not open such shops without Government sanction.

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1. *Memorandum of Appeal from the Baroda State to the Secretary of State for India in the Dangs Case*, Vol. II, (1888), p. 444.

(4) *Jurisdictional Rights*

The Gaikwad claimed both revenue and criminal jurisdiction in the co-shared villages on the basis of his being a sovereign power. It was argued that while the British Government was only a lease-holder, the Gaikwad was the sovereign power and had, therefore, jurisdictional rights. Moreover, there was no evidence to show that either the British or the Dangs Chiefs themselves exercised any such right. There was nothing to show whether either of them realised fines during the period under dispute. The Gaikwad on the other hand adduced nineteen cases in which he exercised criminal jurisdiction before 1835.

The jurisdictional right of the Gaikwad was also admitted by Teharia, Kamdar of the Chief of Derbhavati Dang in 1867 who said that as per custom, fines were levied in the Dangs by them as well by the Gaikwad. This right of the Gaikwad was neither doubted nor resisted. The Gaikwad, therefore, contended that this right should not be denied on grounds of political expediency.

Against these, the British Government contended that the Gaikwad had established no right of interference with the settlement of the rent to be collected, or the mode of its collection. As regards criminal jurisdiction, the British contended that the Gaikwad had no such right. They arrived at this decision on the basis that there was no police officer of any description in the pay of the Gaikwad nor was there any punishment inflicted by the Gaikwad.

With regard to the nineteen instances showing the Gaikwad's exercise of criminal jurisdiction, the British Government urged that these cases had occurred in villages "within easy distance of one or other of the Gaikwad's thanas and therefore subject to the influence and awe of the Gaikwad's establishment there."

The Second Commission had recommended that the rights of the Gaikwad in the co-shared villages might be exchanged for land in full sovereignty on the borders of the Songadh Mahal.[1] The Baroda Government reminded the Government of India about this recommendation.

The Gaikwad's appeal was ultimately disposed of by Government of India under their letter No. 6021 of 7th June, 1890 and the Gaikwad was informed as under :

"His Lordship sees no reason for interfering with the orders already passed and is unable to acquiesce in His Highness the Gaikwar's request

1. *Memorandum of Appeal from the Baroda State to the Secretary of State for India in the Dangs Case*, Vol. II, (1889), p. 456.

to be compensated by a gift of land in full sovereignty in exchange for his alleged rights in the co-shared villages in the Dangs."

Territorial Exchanges

In their desire to remove the Gaikwad's interference from the Dangs, it was proposed by the British Government that the Gaikwad's rights in the Dangs should be purchased by guaranteeing permanently a sum of Rs. 950 per year in lieu of his uncertain and ill-defined rights.[1] This offer was renewed in 1884. But the Gaikwad was not disposed to accept this proposal. In 1939, the Gaikwad reopened the question of exchanging certain villages with those in the Dangs. He suggested that in lieu of his rights in the co-shared villages, he might be given full villages in the Dangs adjoining his Navsari district or his own possessions in the Dangs.[2] The Gaikwad also proposed to exchange certain territories in the Dangs over which the Baroda Government had full jurisdiction. Such areas were the Salher Fort and the villages of Harpada. Thorpada and Kokharvihir. For historial reasons, the Baroda Government was unwilling to include Salher in any proposal for territorial exchange. But as regards the three villages, that Government had no objection to their exchange. The British Government was, however, not in favour of any exchange of villages of the Dangs, which they considered a foreign territory and as such, the proposal was finally turned down.

After 1939, this question was over-shadowed by the outbreak of World War II, the Independence in 1947 and the consequent problems of integration and merger of the princely States in 1948. It, therefore, remained dormant.

(iii) *Boundary Demarcation between Territories of the Dangs Chiefs and the Gaikwad*

The settlement of the boundary dispute between the Dangs and the Baroda Government was a complicated and long-drawn-out affair spreading over 50 years.

On three sides of the Gaikwad village of Chimir, north, east and south, the villages of Kaldar, the Malangdeo group of villages, Chimir and Khapatia, Dokpara, Gholan and Jheran, were claimed in full sovereignty by the Gaikwad and as co-shared by the Dangs Chiefs.

The Baroda State claimed an interest in the cluster of villages comprising Thembthawa, Kejwan, Jamla and Beliamba—the Jhagir villages of the

1. Government Resolution No. 3190, Political Department, Government of Bombay, dated 21st November, 1868.
2. F. R. No. 24/3, (1938-1943).

Deshmukh of Baglan and claimed that the group lay within the Baroda territory. On the other hand, the Dangs Chiefs claimed these as belonging to them.

The boundary between the Dangs and the territories of the Gaikwad had been settled about the year 1850 by Mr. Harvey, who brought his survey and demarcation upto a place called Tarmal, on the north-west frontier of the Dangs.

On the basis of the report of the Second Commission submitted by Captain Hancock and Mr. S. Muller in 1872, the Government of Bombay resolved to settle the claims to the villages of Jheran, Dhotan, Kaldar and Dokpara according to the boundary laid down by Mr. Harvey, Forest Officer, in 1850.

For this purpose, the real and correct boundary between the Baroda State and the Dangs had to be ascertained first. This duty was assigned by the Government of India to Lt. Col. Bullock, Deputy Commissioner of Amraoti. He started work in February, 1886. In the boundary settlement, the Bombay Government was represented by Mr. Lamb. I. C. S. and the Baroda Government by Mr. Devi Prasad.

Mr. Bullock recorded that the western boundary between the Dangs and Baroda had been settled by Mr. Harvey about the year 1850. This being in force for 36 years without any dispute, should not be reopened. The demarcation of the boundary had been completed by him upto Tarmal on the north-west frontier.

From Tarmal to Dahdar, there were no disputes. The boundary marks put down by Mr. Fenner were ascertained to be standing. Both the Agents accepted and the Commissioner confirmed the northern boundary down to the river between Khapatia and Bhurkhari. He settled the boundaries from Mograbari to Beliamba, Kalibhui to Khapatia and Bhurkhari to Bardipada. He awarded to the Gaikwad in full sovereignty a strip of 64 miles in the Dangs consisting of the group of Malangdeo villages, which were claimed by the British Government. Mr Bullock decided the claims of the Gaikwad on the following considerations in March, 1886 :

(1) Kaldar on the north of Fenner's boundary was declared to be a Gaikwadi village, an annual payment of Rs. 10-8-0 being awarded to the Raja of Kadmal in lieu of the Mewas he used to enjoy.

(2) The Malangdeo group of villages, Chimir and Khapatia and Gholan were decided to belong to the Gaikwad.

(3) Dokpara and Jheranpara were decided to be co-shared villages and demarcated into the Dangs.

(4) Jamdar, Begaldar and Jamniamal were declared not to be hamlets of Dokpara.

(5) Talewara, Kardandi and Chiblan were declared to be hamlets of the co-shared village Kaksala.

(6) The Gaikwad had no sovereign rights in the villages of Laochali and its hamlets, the Jagir villages of the Deshmukh of Baglan.

The boundary having been settled by Mr. Bullock, the next thing was to demarcate it on the ground. Owing to some objections raised by the Baroda Government, this work was not taken in hand till 1890 when Mr. H. L. Holland of the Bombay Revenue Survey and Mr. Usufalli Yakuballi Jamadar, Conservator of Forests of the Baroda State, were appointed for the purpose. They erected pillars on the boundary from Mograbari to Beliamba. But Mr. Holland reported that his colleague had no instructions to settle the Umarpada boundary and it had to be left over for another occasion.

In 1891, Messrs. Warburton of the Bombay Revenue Survey, and Usufalli were appointed for the purpose; but they could not finish the work. In 1892, Mr. T. Williaume of the Deccan Survey and Mr. Ramchandar Balwant were deputed to finish the work. They erected pillars from the Kalibhui. Sinad and Behedun trijunction. They also verified the boundary demarcated by Messrs Holland and Usufalli, but the settlement of boundary on Ota-Umarpada could not be finalised by them. Messrs. Seddon, I. C. S. and Pranjivandas Vrandavandas were appointed to complete the work in that year. In 1894. Mr. Seddon got ill and Mr. K. R. Bomanji stepped in his shoes. These officers verified the boundary from Beliamba to Mograbari, laid down the boundary decided by Mr. Bullock from Bhurkhari to Bardipada, completed the settlement and demarcation on the Ota-Umarpada boundary and verified the boundary laid down by Messrs. Holland and Usufalli between Kalibhui and Sinad. Their work was finally approved by the Bombay Government.[1] Thus ended the chequered history of the boundary dispute between the Gaikwad and the Dangs Chiefs.

(4) The Status of the Dangs

The question about the legal status of the Dangs first cropped up when the Dangs forests were proposed to be demarcated into reserved and protected forests in the seventies of the last century. When the Dangis came to know about the proposed demarcation involving restrictions on cultivation and cutting of trees, they felt that it was an attempt at depriving them of their ancient rights in forests. As a result, they indulged in wanton destruc-

1. Resolution, Political Department No. 368, dated the 16th January, 1896, cited in *Dang Boundary Dispute*, compiled under the orders of the Government of Bombay by K. R. Bomanji, (1903), p. 22.

tion of forests and cultivation of forest land. This situation made the British Government to sit up and think about the legal status of the Dangs *vis-a-vis* the British.

Committee on the Dangs Forest (1878)—The Government of Bombay constituted a Committee under G. R. R. D. No. 4552 of 4th September, 1878 consisting of Commissioner, Central Division, Collector and Political Agent, Khandesh, Superintendent of Police and Assistant Political Agent, Legal Remembrancer (J. R. Naylor), Conservator of Forests, Northern Division and Assistant Conservator of Forests. The Committee was asked to prepare a scheme for the demarcation of the forests in the Dangs and to consider the question about the transfer of the political charge of the Dangs from Khandesh to Surat. The Committee found the position nebulous and, therefore, sought the opinion of the Legal Remembrancer, Mr. J. R. Naylor before taking a decision in the matter.

Mr. Naylor gave his historic opinion on the legal status of the Dangs in 1878. Since it has historical as well as political importance, it is reproduced in Annexure VI. However, a few important portions of his pronouncement are highlighted below :

" The Dangs do not form part of the British India. They have never been conquered or annexed by our Government nor they have been ceded to us. They are still foreign territory. "

" As these people (Dangis) are the subjects of the Rajas, our lessor, it would appear *prima facie* that they claim under them and therefore, that in the interest of our stake in the forests, we are entitled to call upon the Rajas to restrain them from destroying any of the forests. "

" On the other hand, as the leases relate to foreign territory (the Dangs), no question could be raised cocerning them in the courts of British India and there is no tribunal to which Rajas or people could appeal, but Government itself. It appears that by acquiescence of the Rajas, Government has acquired in the Dangs, the power and right of administering or superintending the administration of justice. In exercise of this power, Government could, no doubt, make it a punishable offence for the people to trespass within any demarcated portion of the forests or to cultivate or touch any tree beyond certain prescribed limits. "

"......The carrying out of any such arrangement as that contemplated depends, therefore, more upon might than upon right and the question that the Committee has to face is not so much what can Government

legally do, in order to preserve the forest, but what measure it is expedient and politic for Government to attempt to enforce whether with or without nominal assent of the Rajas, in restraint of the immemorial usages and habits of the people."

In this nebulous state of the administration, Mr. Naylor recommended that much would depend upon the knowledge and discrimination of the gentlemen who were acquainted with the temper and mode of life of the Dangis and not much upon legal considerations. He, therefore, suggested that such action might be taken which might not excite resentment or which might not unduly circumscribe ancient liberties of the Dangis.

The Committee emphasised the fact that no records were forthcoming regarding the Dangs which threw light on their independence. A reference was made to the report made by Mansfield, Collector of Khandesh in June 1854 about the backward condition of the Dangs (vide Selections from the Bombay Government Records No. XXVI. New Series). The Committee felt that the condition of the Dangs Rajas and the people was much the same even in 1878. It also felt that the wasteful system of cultivation carried on by the Dangis and their constant migration from one place to another on appearance of cattle disease or of reputed witch or in consequence of the death of a member of their community or for any other absurd reason had caused destruction of the forest. It, therefore, suggested that efforts should be made to restrict such destruction in order to ensure a fair supply of valuable timber. This could only be done by demarcating forest areas and separating them from the area actually required by the people for cultivation. It also recommended that Dali cultivation should be allowed within prescribed limits. For this purpose, a large area of land fit for cultivation should be left outside the proposed reserved forests. It considered that a Revenue or Political Officer must of necessity be associated with the Forest Officials in demarcation and settlement of forest areas in order that the just rights of the Chiefs and the people might be fairly considered and duly secured. Otherwise the demarcation scheme would end in failure.

According to 1871 Census, the population of the Dangs consisted of 18,490 souls. The Dangs area was roughly estimated to measure 800 sq. miles. The male population was round about 5,700. One third of the population consisted of Bhils, who did not cultivate land at all or cultivated very little. It was, therefore, argued that the assignment of 1/3rd of the Dangs or 270 sq. miles for cultivation would amply provide for all the present and prospective needs of the people. The actual number of cultivators was less than 4,000 and consisted of Kunbis, Varlis and Kokanis. Thus, reservation of 1/3rd of the Dangs would meet the requirements of cultivation.

The cultivation which was Dali, pure and simple, was scattered all over the forest on the tops and slopes of hills and on the level land in valleys. Little patches were found in the most unlikely out-of-the-way places, isolated and unconnected with any other similar clearings. In fact, there was no concentration of the cultivated areas. In the interest of the forest conservancy, the Committee felt that the cultivation should be more concentrated. It laid down the following rules for the demarcating officers :

(a) As far as possible, the land set aside for the people should be culturable, and should be situated in the immediate neighbourhood of a constant water supply.

(b) Valuable forest should be retained and properly protected. The preservation of the Dangs forest would be better secured by formation of a number of small plots of cultivation scattered all over the forest. Efforts should, therefore, be directed to the concentration of cultivation and formation of colonies.

(c) Each Dang should be taken up separately. The boundaries should be laid down, and proper proportion of forests and cultivation should be decided by the demarcating officer *in consultation with the Chiefs and headmen of villages.*

(d) The demarcating officer must visit every existing village or hamlet and ascertain the approximate area cultivated by each person and cattle maintained and record details about the river, stream, etc., and the general appearance of the forest and slopes of the hills.

(e) After deciding the sites of cultivation to be marked off, the officer should collect the headmen and cultivators of villages concerned and explain to them the limits within which cultivation was to be carried on in future. He would then erect temporary boundary marks. Thereafter, he should submit a report to the Political Agent, *who with the concurrence of the* Rajas, would sanction the proposals. Permanent boundary marks would then be erected by the Forest Department.

(f) After demarcation of the boundaries of each Dang, the Great Trigonometrical Survey Department would map the country and ascertain the size of each Dang. Then it will be possible to ascertain the area under reserved forest and that under cultivation. It would then be desirable and possible to draw up new forest leases for each Dang stating the details of the demarcation and the rights the people of the Dangs exercised. The rights exercised by the people related to (a) grazing (b) taking wood for domestic use and (c) cultivation.

The above were the main rules laid down for carrying out the demarcation of the reserved forest. But the Committee was not sure about its success. This will be seen from the following observation of the Committee.

"In the first place, we would state plainly that, although we have used our best endeavours to frame a tolerably practical scheme, the result of that scheme cannot be looked forward to with anything like confidence or satisfaction. In attempting to introduce a civilised system into the Dangs, it must be remembered that we are dealing with a savage and very ignorant class. Were the Rajas possessed of even a small modicum of intellectual culture, the settlement of the Dangs forest question would be comparatively simple, but, as a matter of fact, the Rajas themselves, in consequence of their low social status and debauched habits, are in reality less intelligent then many of their subjects. The reigning Chief and his relations on every side are accustomed to act as they please without the slightest consideration for the welfare of their subjects, and in all probability, it will be frequently found that the Chiefs themselves place the most serious obstacles in the way of the officers, who may be deputed to look after forest conservation."

Apart from laying down rules for demarcation, the Committee made certain significant observations on the administration of the Dangs. The District Forest Officer, Dangs did not carry with him sufficient weight or influence as he was not invested with magisterial or political powers. The Committee, therefore, suggested that the Forest Officer in the Dangs should be invested with second class magisterial powers.

Secondly, there were Parsi liquor contractors holding 5-year licences. The shops were opened under the orders of the Collector and Political Agent, Khandesh (Mr. Ashburner) in order that the liquor sellers residing in the villages belonging to His Highness the Gaikwad on borders of the Dangs might not reap the sole benefit resulting from the drunken habits of the Dang Rajas and their people. These Parsi liquor sellers acted as rapacious *saukars* and oppressed the people. The Committee, therefore, recommended that no liquor shops should be allowed at any place inside the Dangs.

Thirdly, as regards the proposed transfer of the Dangs from Khandesh to Surat, the Commissioner, C. D. had reported to Government that the transfer would be desirable, as the Dangs were more easily accessible from Surat than from Khandesh and as the local timber trade was with Surat. But on political grounds, Government decided to maintain the *status quo*.

Lastly, the Commission recommended that a special experienced officer should be appointed to implement their recommendations relating to the demarcation of the reserved forest.

It may be noted that on the basis of Mr. Naylor's opinion, the British Government treated the Dangs as a foreign territory and administered it under the Indian Foreign Jurisdiction Act.

The case about the status of the Dangs has been dealt with by Mr. L. C. Tupper in his book 'Indian Political Practice'. The question came up for consideration when the Bombay Government proposed in February, 1889 that the Dangs should be treated as a tract of the country in the Khandesh Political Agency, as British territory. This proposal was made for several considerations. "The British Government is the lessee of all that is valuable in the Dangs. It is also, apart from its leases, the paramount power over the Chiefs. In this last capacity, it has fined and imprisoned and hung Chiefs and their subjects for serious criminal offences. It has introduced no laws. It has interfered to appoint and dismiss Dewans and to banish obnoxious settlers. Its power has not been questioned. though never defined. It has exercised criminal jurisdiction, and nipped civil suits in the bud by arbitration." The Government of India, however, declined to include the Dangs in the British territory for very cogent reasons. Mr. Tupper has very ably summed up the arguments on behalf of Government of India as under :

"We cannot do better than to quote a minute of July 1, 1889, by Sir Andrew Scoble, Law Member of Council. "Upon the question of fact", he wrote, "whether the Dangs are British territory or not, the historical evidence appears to be complete that they are not." (The historical evidence referred to by the Law Member is given in Annexure VII.

"I therefore agree with Sir H. M. Durant that historically these Dangs are not British territory, but protected States. If the order of 4th July, 1862 is not repealed, and it is deemed expedient to introduce a more formal system of administration, I should on general grounds, think it desirable to convert them into a Scheduled District. The Chiefs would probably not raise any greater objections to this form of proceeding than to a Notification under the Foreign Jurisdiction Act, and, in either case, I presume, the present state of things would by left practically unaltered."

The Government of India replied to the Bombay Government in letter No. 2874-I, dated July 16, 1889 as under .

"There is no doubt much to be said for the view favoured by the Government of Bombay, which is inclined to regard these tracts

as having become absorbed in British territory. Nevertheless, after careful consideration of the facts, the Government of India have come to the conclusion that there is hardly sufficient grounds for treating them on this assumption, and they must be regarded as still retaining some measures of sovereignty."

(5) FOREST ADMINISTRATION

For practical purposes, the Forest Administration in the Dangs commenced with the execution of forest leases in 1842. The details about the forest leases and their working have already been dealt with before under the section "Forest Leases". But the Forest Administration in the legal sense, however, commenced from 1902-03 with the appointment of Collector, Surat as Political Agent and, Divisional Forest Officer, Surat as Assistant Political Agent, Dangs with magisterial powers. This aspect of the Forest Administration has been dealt with in Chapter I—General, under the sub-head "History of the District as an Administrative unit." It is, therefore, not necessary to deal with them here. However, it needs to be emphasised that in the Dangs, the main income was (is) from the forests and, therefore, the needs of the Forest Administration were considered paramount in preference to the needs of other departments. The Forest Department, therefore, reigned supreme, so far as the administration of the Dangs was concerned. During the period from 1903 to 1943, the Divisional Forest Officer and the Dangs Diwan managed all affairs of the territory with the modicum of administrative machinery at their disposal.

(6) TRANSFER OF THE DANGS STATE TO GOVERNMENT OF INDIA IN 1933 AND ITS MERGER IN BOMBAY[1]

Before the new constitution under the Government of India Act, 1935 came into force, Government of India appointed Colonel Wilberforce Bell as Officer on Special Duty in connection with the transfer of the Bombay State to the Government of India. Col. Bell recommended, *inter alia*, that along with other States, the Dangs State should also be taken over by the Government of India. The Government of Bombay opposed the transfer of the Dangs mainly on the ground that the Dangs were of the nature of the British Indian States and under the Meston Settlement, the Bombay Government was entitled to the revenue derived from the Dangs forests leases, and that the transfer of all the Dangs along with forest leases would involve serious loss of revenues to the Bombay Presidency. But in view of the desirability of transferring all political entities in the Bombay Presidency from the local Government before introduction of the new Constitution, the Dangs State was transferred to the Government of India

1. Based on the Political Records about the Dangs State in the National Archives, New Delhi.

with effect from the 1st April, 1933 and placed under the political control of the Government of India through the Agent to the Governor General for the Gujarat States. Thereafter the Bombay Government requested the Government of India for the surplus revenue from the Dangs. However, the Government of India declined to grant the request mainly on the ground that the Meston Settlement had no bearing on the question at issue, so long as the Dangs were regarded as sovereign units and not a part of the British India. The Bombay Government were, however, told that if they could establish that the Dangs were not real sovereign units and that they could be treated on a par with the Mehwasi Estates, the Government of India would be prepared to consider the expediency of recognising the Dangs as British India and include them in the Bombay Presidency as a backward tract for the purpose of the Government of India Act. But the Government of Bombay could not produce evidence which could establish beyond doubt that the Dangs Chiefs were not technically sovereign units, and that the material produced by the State Government from the purely legal point of view was not sufficient to establish that the Dangs were a part of the British India. The Bombay Government admitted that " The Dangs have not been formally included in British India, that in practice, they have been treated as foreign territory, that the British Government have not assumed full sovereignty over them, that their territories have not been brought under British Indian Laws and that they are held by Government under leases in perpetuity granted by the Chiefs. " The Bombay Government, however, held that these facts did not establish the Chiefs' claim to sovereignty beyond doubt.[1]

Against these contentions of the Bombay Government, the Government of India urged the following considerations[2] :

(a) The holders of the Dangs and the Dangs territory had been designated respectively as "Chiefs" and "States or Estates" in the Government publications and correspondence.

(b) Though no treaties were entered into with the Dangs Chiefs, the forest leases taken from them by the Government and cession of jurisdiction to Government by the Dangs Chiefs over certain railway lands by formal deeds in 1922 and 1926 rebutted any presumption arising from the absence of any formal treaty between the Dangs Chiefs and the British Government.

(c) The British Government allowed the Chiefs to administer justice in petty civil and criminal cases by virtue of their hereditary position and without investing them with powers under the British laws.

1. Based upon the Notes of the Foreign and Political Department, Government of India, (1934).

2. *Ibid.*

(d) The British had assumed the Dangs as a foreign territory for the purpose of their (British) laws. In fact, the power to legislate or make rules and orders for the said territory was derived through the Foreign Jurisdiction Order in Council, 1902.

(e) Unlike the Mehwasi estates, the Dangs were not included in the list of the scheduled districts under the Scheduled Districts Act, 1874. In fact, the Dangs Chiefs were included in the schedule of the Ruling Princes and Chiefs, in whose respect sanction under section 86 of the Civil Procedure Code was necessary for institution of suits and execution of decrees.

(f) The Chiefs were provisionally exempted in 1887 from Nazarana, which had since been abolished from all the States.

The above facts definitely proved beyond doubt that the Dangs Chiefs were sovereign units and did not form part of the British India.

Against these arguments, the Bombay Government urged the following considerations for including the Dangs in the British India :

(1) the considerations previously urged in their letter of 1889.

(2) the facts reported by Mr. Mansfield in 1854, that " there is no record forthcoming regarding the Dangs which throws any light on the origin of their independence. "

(3) historical evidence furnished by the Commissioner, Central Division from the Peshwa Daftar, Poona, and

(4) the administrative considerations.

Against these contentions of the Government of Bombay, the Government of India put forth the following arguments :

(1) The considerations set forth in the Bombay Government letter of 1889 were duly weighed and found wanting at the time of issuing the orders in 1889. It was then agreed that historically, the Dangs were not *British territory but a protected State.*

(2) While supplying information concerning the Chiefs who had exercised hereditary authority as required by the Bombay Government, Capt. Rigby referred to the Dangs Chiefs, in his letter of 30th October, 1825 as follows :

(a) " Among the number of hereditary Chiefs, who heretofore and still continue to exercise despotic power, those of the Dangs stand prominent. "

(b) In para 26 of his letter dated the 30th July, 1825, Col. Robertson observed that "the Dangs contain several Chiefs with population of the most restless description, and the whole requires a constant superintendence. I believe, the Chiefs pay no revenue or tribute of any kind but on the contrary, exact dues of various descriptions from the districts of the Gaikwad and Khandesh."

(c) In Mr. Mansfield's narrative of 21st June, 1854,[1] it is stated that "The first notice of this country may be taken from the beginning *of the British rule in Khandesh during the year 1818.* Before this, the *Bheel Rajas of the Dangs appear, from their ferocity and the strength of their fastnesses, to have preserved their independence during the* rule of the Native Governments............The Dangs pay no tribute of any kind to the British Government or to any of the neighbouring *States.* The Rajas appear to have held their country by force of arms and were the dread of the neighbouring States before the British rule began." With regard to the administration of justice, Mansfield reported: "the Rajas investigate all offences and disputes, according to the ancient custom, punishing principally by fines, and without any regular system of procedure or organised laws. It is only recently that we have interfered, before which they were in the habit of disposing of even most serious crimes in a most summary manner."[2]

(d) In the joint report of Mr. Pritchard and Lt. Reeves made in April, 1884, "it is admitted on all hands that the Dangs Chiefs were original lords of the country and the grantors of all His Highness (Gaikwad's) possessions there.......... .. .... Long before 1847-48, the Dang Chiefs had become the feudatories of the British Government ..... At that time (1847-48) and for many years before, the Chiefs and the British Government *on their behalf*, were exercising jurisdiction over the co-shared villages generally.... ... ."[3]

(e) In their letter of 8th November, 1883 the Bombay Government stated, *inter alia*, "Of these, the Bheels at the beginning of the present century were the terror of the dwellers in all adjoining territories. No Native Government had been able to subdue or control them, or to establish over them the semblance of political superiority. They paid tribute to no man but on the contrary, levied blackmail from the villages of the neighbouring States within their reach..... ..."[4]

1. *Selections from Records of the Bombay Government*, No. XXVI, New Series, (1856), p. 185.

2. *Ibid.*, p. 186.

3. Bomanji K. R., *Dang Boundary Dispute*, compiled under the orders of the Government of Bombay, (1903), p. 1.

4. *Ibid.*, p. 85.

(f) In his note[1] dated the 14th January, 1884, Sir Lew Warner referred to the State of Dangs in the following terms :

"The British Government recognised the independence of the Dangs Chiefs, but it is the lessee of all their proprietary rights and moreover it exercises criminal jurisdiction over the Chiefs...... ......The Chiefs are independent of each other and independent of Government except in so far as they have surrendered to us (British Government) their rights under leases or as we exercise jurisdiction over the Chiefs themselves. They pay no tribute of any sort. On the contrary they receive blackmail from the Baroda Darbar and from ourselves. The independence of the Chiefs, never questioned, is emphasised by the arrangements (forest leases)......"

(g) In the Government of India despatch to the Secretary of State dated the 4th March, 1890, it was stated that "the primary sovereignty rests with the Bheel Chieftains, the ultimate residuary sovereignty with the paramount power, and there is no room for the jurisdiction of the Darbar (Gaikwad)."

On the basis of the historical and other facts stated above, the Government of India came to the conclusion that the Bombay Government, on merits, on legal or historical grounds, either in virtue of usage or practice failed to establish that Dangs could be treated as part of the British India. For administrative convenience. the Bombay Government was inclined to treat the Dangs as totally excluded areas and to place them under the direct control of the Governor. Thus, the Bombay Government attempts to prove lack of sovereignty of the Dangs Chiefs did not succeed.

As regards the similarity between the Dangs and Mehwasis, the test to be applied was whether the British Indian legislature had purported to legislate directly for the territory. The Mehwasi estates were treated as the scheduled districts under the Scheduled Districts Act, 1874 ; whereas the Dangs were not so scheduled. Unlike the Mehwasis, no British legislation was extended to the Dangs and, therefore, they did not form part of the British India. The Government of India, therefore, decided that there could be no reversal of the original decision taken in July 1889 that the Dangs State was foreign territory and as such could not be included in the British India.

The Administration by the Forest Department continued till the separation of the Revenue and Forest Departments and appointment of a Civil Administrator for the Revenue Administration of the Dangs in November, 1943. The Civil Administrator was in charge of all administrative

1. Based on the Notes of Foreign and Political Department, Government of India, (1934).

departments except Police, Forest and Public Works. This was the period of the Second World War and the Quit India Movement of 1942. The political conditions were in a flux. There was ferment all round. The British, therefore, felt the need for developing the Dangs State. Mr. D. Y. Fell, Secretary to Resident for Dangs and Gujarat States at Baroda wrote in his letter dated the 30th June, 1944 to the Divisional Forest Officer, Dangs as under :

> "Practically, nothing was done for the inhabitants of the area (the Dangs). There are even now practically no laws in the tract, no revenue settlement has ever been attempted, there are no statistics except about forests and the whole place is in fact in *administrative vacuum such as must be wholly unknown anywhere* else in India."

> "The tract came under the care of the Crown Representative in 1933 and I am afraid that it must go on record that in the interval, nothing has been done of which any one of us can be greatly proud. There is still no revenue settlement, no rule of law in real sense of the term, there is no hospital, there are no schools worth the name and outside the Forest Department, there are no cadres and no administrative structure of any sort or description." Besides, Mr. Fell emphasised the problem of tribals in the Dangs. He held that the problem was to ease and adjust the impact of formal administrative methods and of modern economic realities. In support of his view, he (Mr. Fell) quoted from the report of Mr. D. Symington, I.C.S. on the Aboriginal Hill Tribes of the Bombay Presidency (1938). The tribal problem according to Mr. Symington was as under :

>> "Where their (the aboriginal tribes) geographical position keeps them beyond the reach of outside world as in the Akrani ......they are happy and independent, but in the places, now all too many, where they are in constant contact with more educated people, they are degraded, timid and exploited. Since the time of the cession of the Peshwas' territories, successive Government have been occupied in the pacification of the country, the creation of the land revenue system, the introduction of the civil and criminal codes of law, the development of communications, and irrigation and other measures for the progress of the province". In all these measures, it was usually assumed that whatever measures were suitable for the country at large, were also suitable for the tribal areas. Nobody thought that the tribals required to be given special treatment."

"The primary aim of the administration is to establish the closest personal contact with the Dangis in villages, to avoid formal and

bureaucratic methods and over-administration with a large staff of subordinates, and to spend the increasing revenues of the area on raising standard of living of the people. Improvement in nutrition, eradication of malaria and other epidemics and increase of education without destroying the cultural pattern of this aboriginal society are the primary needs of the area and are receiving closest attention of the authority ".[1]

Even after Independence, these prime needs are not fully satisfied and demand continuous attention. Although much has been done, much more remains to be done in the district.

(7) CHIEFS AND THEIR HAKS

After acquisition of Khandesh in 1818, the British were forced to maintain law and order not only in Khandesh but in the adjacent areas of the Dangs from which the Bhil Chiefs descended in the plains for plunder. The first measure adopted was to raise a Bhil Corps from the Bhils of Khandesh and to throw a cordon on the eastern side of the Dangs. But this was not enough to prevent depredations from the Chiefs, who indulged in these forays to eke out their livelihood. The British, therefore, felt that if a provision was made for foodgrains and other necessaries in the Dangs State itself, the number of their raids could be considerably reduced. With this view, provision was made for supply of foodgrains and grant of land for cultivation to the Dangis.

> " These arrangements preserved our own frontier but the Bhils continued to make predatory incursions into the territory of H. H. the Gaekwar, which led in 1825 to our guaranteeing to them their Geeras claims on that country, the irregular payment of which was stated to be the real cause of their depredations. "

> " These Bhils had also Geeras claims on several of our villages which were recognised in 1828, and their payment settled from the District treasuries of Baglan and Pimpulneir. By these measures they were kept quiet for a time ; but occasionally they broke out and attacked our villages. "[2]

The British also paid political allowance to the Chiefs. These allowances were paid to the Dangs Chiefs, Naiks and their Bhaubands by holding Darbars during the British period.

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1. *Administration Report for the Dangs*, from 1st August, 1944 to 31st March, 1946, p. 3.

2. *Selections from the Records of the Bombay Government*, No. XXVI, (New Series), (1856), pp. 165-66.

"There is no record forthcoming, regarding the Dang, which throws any light on the origin of their independence."[1] The position about the Dangs Chiefs and Naiks as it existed in the eighties of the last century has been depicted in full details in the *District Gazetteer of Khandesh* (1880).[2] Ninety years have elapsed since then. It is necessary to know the present position about the Dangs Chiefs and Naiks in the altered circumstances. The basic facts about these Chiefs and Naiks are stated below.[3]

Gadhvi—The Gadhvi Dang had 58 villages covering an area of 300 sq. miles. The present Chief, Shri Umarsing Kiralsing, a Bhil, lives at Gadhvi. He has studied upto the vernacular VIII standard. Being the owner of 196 acres and 36 gunthas of lands, the Chief is a farmer by profession. His annual income from farming works out to about Rs. 4,000. He gets an annual political pension of Rs. 18,504·23.

Derbhavati—The Derbhavati Dang had 20 villages covering an area of 170 sq. miles. The present Chief, Shri Anandrao Sahebrao, a Bhil, lives at Uga (Deher). He has studied upto the vernacular VII standard. He is a farmer by occupation and is the owner of 8 acres and 9 gunthas of lands. His annual income from farming comes to about Rs. 1,500. He gets an annual political pension of Rs. 12,597·59.

Amala—The Amala Dang had 50 villages covering an area of 200 sq. miles. The present Chief, Shri Hasusing Gulabsing, a Bhil, lives at Linga. He has studied upto the vernacular VII standard. He cultivates his lands measuring 87 acres and 15 gunthas. He gets annual political pension of Rs. 13,971·81. He also gets an annual income from farming to the tune of Rs. 1,500.

Pimpri—The Pimpri Dang had 31 villages covering an area of 100 sq. miles. The present Naik, Shri Bhavanrao Bhagerao, a Bhil, lives at Pimpri. He is uneducated. He cultivates his lands measuring 35 acres and 15 gunthas. He gets an annual political pension of Rs. 15,211·28. He gets about Rs. 500 from the farm produce annually.

Wasurna—The Wasurna Dang had 70 villages covering an area of 200 sq. miles. The present Chief, Shri Chandrasing Somansing, a Bhil, lives at Wasurna. He has studied upto the vernacular VII standard. He cultivates his lands admeasuring 36 acres and 10 gunthas. He gets an annual political pension of Rs. 11,335·87. He also gets Rs. 2,000 as annual income from farming.

1. *Selections from the Records of the Bombay Government*, No. XXVI, New Series, (1856), p. 166.
2. CAMPBELL J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. XII, *Khandesh*, (1880), pp. 604-606.
3. List of villages held by Chiefs and Naiks at the time of settlement of political pension is given in Annexure VIII.

Kirli—The Kirli Dang had 6 villages. The present Naik is Shri Fulsing Deosing, a Bhil, who lives at Lahan Zardar. He is uneducated. He cultivates his lands admeasuring 57 acres. He gets an annual political pension of Rs. 2,612·79. He has no other source of income.

Shivbara—The Shivbara Dang had 3 villages. The present Naik of *Shivbara Dang is Shri Jiwalia Rangu, a Bhil. who lives at Jarsol. He is uneducated. He cultivates his lands of 6 acres and 20 gunthas. He gets an* annual *political pension of Rs. 1,929·28 and Rs. 500 annually from farming.*

Chinchli—The Chinchli Dang had 17 villages covering an area of 22 sq. miles. The present Naik, Shri Fatesing Nayansing, a Bhil, lives at Gadad. He is uneducated. He cultivates his lands of 26 acres and 37 gunthas. He gets an annual political pension of Rs. 2,472·37 and farm income of about Rs. 300.

Avchar—The Avchar Dang had 11 villages covering an area of 8 sq. miles. The present Naik, Shri Maharu Nilsing, a Bhil, lives at Chichpada. He is uneducated. He cultivates his lands of 60 acres and 20 gunthas. He gets an annual political pension of Rs. 898·75. He has no other source of income.

Piplaidevi—The Piplaidevi Dang had 1 village. The present Naik of Piplaidevi is Shri Janerao Konjurai, Bhil, who lives at Piplaidevi. He is uneducated. He cultivates his lands measuring 27 acres and 37 gunthas. He gets an annual political pension of Rs. 907·13. He has no other source of income.

Palasvihir—The Palasvihir Dang had 1 village. The present Naik of Palasvihir is Shri Bhagia Gondu, a Bhil, who lives at Palasvihir. He is uneducated. He cultivates his lands of 29 acres and 20 gunthas. He gets an annual political pension of Rs. 662·46. He has no other source of income.

Wadiawan—The present Naik of Wadiawan is Shri Lalsing Laxman, a Bhil, who lives at Wadiawan. He is uneducated. He gets an annual political pension of Rs. 635·62 and has no other source of income.

Bilbari—The present Naik of Bilbari is Shri Maharu Bhavajai Naik, a Bhil, who lives at Bilbari. He is uneducated. He cultivates his lands of 9 acres. He gets an annual political pension of Rs. 463·96. He has no other source of income.

Zari-Garkhadi—The present Naik of Zari-Garkhadi is Shri Awasu Ganpat, a Bhil, who lives at Zari-Garkhadi. He is uneducated. He cultivates his land of one acre. He gets an annual political pension of Rs. 366·75 and has no other source of income.

It is significant to note that the families of all Chiefs and Naiks follow the rule of primogeniture and have no patent allowing adoption.

To sum up, the review of the present position of the Dangs Chiefs and Naiks reveals that there are 4 Chiefs and 10 Naiks. Among them, the Chiefs of Gadhvi, Deher, Amala and Wasurna are educated, whereas all the Naiks are uneducated. All of them are Bhils and follow farming for subsistence. Secondly, most of them are given lands, free of occupancy price, by Government for this purpose. Among them, the Chief of Gadhvi possesses the largest holding of 196 acres and 36 gunthas, whereas the Naik of Zari Garkhadi has a tiny holding of one acre. Thirdly, all of them are given political pensions in lieu of all their rights in the Dangs. Among them, the Chief of Gadhvi gets the maximum pension of Rs. 18,504-23, whereas the Naik of Zari Garkhadi gets the minimum pension of Rs. 366-75. Fourthly, all of them follow the rule of primogeniture and none has any patent for adoption. Thus, the income of these Chiefs and Naiks is mainly derived from the amount of political pension which they get from Government. The Chiefs and Naiks get income from farming varying from Rs. 4,000 (Gadhvi) to Rs. 300 (Chinchli). What others produce in their lands is generally for consumption and not for market. As a result, the political pension has become their sheet-anchor for livelihood. In the circumstances, the impact of the development programmes on the social and economic conditions of the Chiefs and Naiks does not seem to be adequate.

The Dangs Chiefs and Naiks need to be distinguished from other Bhils of Gujarat and Rajasthan. Dr. T B. Naik has made a perceptive analytical study of the characteristics of the Bhils. He has observed that " Historically, and in historical experience too, the Bheels have distinctive traits, different from those of the neighbouring cultures. They show..... *relics of a ruling tribe* which had its sway over a great part of Gujarat and Rajputana. They were ill-treated by the Marathas, they fought against and at times were vanquished by the Muslims and they rose against the British authorities too All this history was mostly one not shared by other castes and tribes. "[1] This is evidenced from the facts stated below.

Although, they acquiesced in the political administration of the British and relinquished all their rights and privileges in the Dangs after merger in exchange for political pension, they have retained certain relics of a ruling tribe. The main characteristics, which distinguish them as a ruling tribe from other Bhils in Gujarat and round about deserve notice. To begin with, most of the Chiefs and Naiks have Karbharis who act as men personal attendants. They serve as their constant companions. Generally, they conduct all types of business and discussions through them (Karbharis).

1. Dr. T. B. Naik, *The Bhils,—A Study*, (1956). p. 315.

They still employ personal peons and orderlies. The Chiefs do not communicate or talk directly as others do, but they do it through their Karbharis. If they talk directly, they talk in monosyllables. Like other rulers, the Chiefs have more than one Rani as a status symbol. If anybody comes to seek the audience of the Chief or pay homage to him, the person has to give him (the Chief) some present or Nazarana, say fowl or a chicken. In return, he (the Chief) gives him a new piece of costly cloth. The Chief never moves out alone but goes out in a group of about 10 persons. When he visits another village, he is accompanied by his Karbharis and relatives who announce his arrival by a beat of drum. On hearing this, the village people would come forward to receive him and present him with a bottle of wine. As a relic of a ruling race, the Chiefs put on *jamo*, *dhotar* and turban, but the *jamo* is being gradually replaced by a shirt. Normally, they do not cultivate themselves but leave cultivation to the Kunbis. There is a special procedure of *sejas* for cultivating life-long friendship with the Chiefs. For this purpose, a person has to approach the Chief with a bottle of wine or a turban cloth. In return, for such a petty gift, the Chief would give him as present a buffalo or a cow. Lastly, the amount of political pension is their mainstay in life. These amounts are not very large in the case of many Chiefs and Naiks. Still, they distribute shares among the Bhaubandhs or relatives, even though they may be left with little money after distribution. Thus, the Chiefs retain a few traditions and trappings of the old customs of a ruling tribe.

THE DANG DARBAR

The origin of the Dang Darbar may be traced to a period just following the execution of the forest leases by the British in 1842. The Chiefs and Naiks were entitled to annual payment of the subsidy for their forest and Abkari rights, land revenue in the form of plough-tax, grazing fees on cattle and various Giras allowances from the surrounding States and the British territory. These payments were made annually to the Chiefs and Naiks by holding a Darbar of all Rajas, Naiks, Bhaubandhs and the Dangi people. The main object of holding the Darbar was to collect all these persons at one place and to establish rapport with them as a conciliatory measure. The Darbar was (and is) a very colourful function to conjure with. This was because all the Chiefs and their Bhaubandhs came to the Darbar in their picturesque dress and made merry for two or three days. The Rajas considered it a great honour to receive payments from the hands of the European Political Agents.

The earliest references to the Dang Darbar are available from the Administration Reports of the Bombay Presidency. It appears from these reports that till the beginning of the present century, the Darbar was held at different places every year outside the Dangs mostly in the month of May. This was due to the unhealthy climate of the Dangs. It then became the custom to distribute foodgrains, oil, etc., (*sidhu*) to those assembled

for the Darbar. This custom continued even when the Darbars came to be held subsequently in the Dangs district. In 1876-77 the Dangs Chiefs were invited to Dhulia to attend the Darbar held in honour of the Imperial Proclamation proclaiming Queen Victoria as the Empress of India. No details pertaining to the period from 1877-78 to 1885-86 are available. The Administration Report for 1886-87 states that the Darbar was held at Pimpalneir. In 1888-89, the customary Darbar was held at Piplaidevi. At this Darbar, the Dangs Chiefs were brought to consent to the demarcation of their forests in Dangs. In 1891-92, the Darbar was held as usual in the month of May and was attended by all the Chiefs of Dangs. In 1895-96 and 1896-97, the Darbars were held at Shirvada where the Chiefs raised objections to the forest demarcations. The subsequent Darbars were held at Pimpalneir. But the Darbar of May, 1900 was held at Waghai in Pimpri Dang. Three Darbars were held during the year 1904. At the Annual Darbar held in that year, it was recommended that in future the Darbars should be held every year at Waghai in April or May. But the venue of the Darbar was shifted to Ahwa, the headquarters of the territory and has continued to remain the same till date.

The Annual Darbar of the Chiefs and Naiks was thereafter held before Holi holidays and was presided over by the Political Agent, who was the Collector of Surat. In this Darbar, forest subsidies and *sirpav* were given to the Chiefs. The Chiefs' Darbar was followed by the Patels' Darbar where turbans and rewards were presented to the deserving Patels for fire protection and other works. In 1910, a few Patels were given silver bangles as encouragement for production of superior crops.

In the Annual Darbar, sometimes for meritorious services, special rewards were also given to the Chiefs. For example, in 1910, the Pimpri Naik was presented with a gun for useful services rendered to the Forest Department. In 1911, a gold ring was presented to the Naik of Dang Chinchligadad in appreciation of his loyal attitude to Government. Four Patels were given silver bangles for services rendered to Government.

In 1913, the Dang Darbar was held at Ahwa in April, when there was a record attendance of Chiefs. Six Delhi Darbar medals were presented to the Chiefs of Gadhvi, Pimpri, Derbhavati, Chinchli, Kirli, and Wanvasia Raja, a loyal old man of Gadhvi family. Three Patels and two Karbharis were rewarded with silver bangles. Puggaries and rewards were given to Patels as usual.

In 1915 Darbar, the Chiefs, who took part in the riots of 1914 were fined and their guns were confiscated. Four of the lesser Naiks, who had taken no part in the riots, were rewarded with silver bangles. A large number of officials as well as Patels and Karbharis, who had helped in quelling the disturbance, were rewarded with bangles and cash.

In 1916 and 1917, the performance given by the school children was the special feature of the Darbar.

In 1921, the Darbar became a great annual fete. An exhibition and demonstrations were carried out by the Agriculture Department for the first time in the Dangs. Thereafter, they became a part of the Annual Darbar. A large number of shop-keepers came from above the *ghats* and from Bansda and Surat bringing useful articles for the Dangis.

In 1923, Government increased the subsidy payable to the Chiefs by 50 per cent under Government Resolution, Revenue Department No. 4534, dated 25th April, 1923. For payment of this extra annual personal subsidy, the Assistant Political Agent, Dangs held a small Chiefs' Darbar in December, 1923 at Ahwa. As a result, from 1923 onwards, holding of this small Darbar in December every year became an annual feature, in addition to the Annual Chiefs' Darbar and the Patels' Darbar.

In the Darbar held in 1927, the magic lantern, lectures on agrirulture, veterinary, temperance and medical matters were given by the officers concerned.

In 1929, at the time of the Annual Darbar, a cattle show was held for the first time in the Dangs. Small prizes were awarded for the best heads of cattle.

Till 1933, the Political Agent used to preside over the Dangs Annual Chiefs' Darbar. After the transfer of the Dangs State to the direct control of the Government of India, the Darbar came to be presided over by the Agent to the Governor General, Gujarat States Agency and Resident at Baroda from April, 1934. It was also presided by the Political Agent, Rewa Kantha, Surgana and the Dangs.

In May 1935, a special Jubilee Darbar, in addition to the Annual Chiefs' Darbar was held to distribute subsidies and *sirpav*. The Coronation Darbar was held by the Assistant Political Agent, where a special bonus of Rs. 4,465 was distributed among the Chiefs and Naiks. At this Darbar, an announcement was made of the transfer of the Dangs as Native States under the control of the Government of India permanently with effect from 1st April, 1937. In addition to the Annual Chiefs' Darbar, a special Darbar was held in May, 1938, when a bonus of Rs. 8,973 sanctioned by the Government of India was paid to the Chiefs. In 1939, similar bonus amounting to Rs. 8,973 was distributed among the Chiefs.

In subsequent years till 1947, three Darbars (Chiefs', Patels' and small Darbar) continued to be held at Ahwa.[1]

1. At present only one Darbar is held at Ahwa, about a week before the Holi festival.

In 1947, a temporary *shamiana* was erected opposite the Daly Rajkumar's School (which now houses a primary school) for holding the Darbar. This practice continued till it came to be held in the fifties in the premises of the District Local Board. Since then, it is held in the Darbar Hall belonging to the Government but within the Local Board compound.

In 1950 Darbar, the following amounts were paid to the Chiefs and Naiks :

(a) Rs. 35,826-13-4 as forest subsidy,

(b) Rs. 16,000 as land revenue,

(c) Rs. 2,000 as non-agricultural assessment (approx.),

(d) Rs. 500 as half grazing fees (approx.), and

(e) Rs. 100 as gun licence fees

Total Rs. 54,426-13-4=Rs. 54,427

It should be noted that these figures did not include Giras and other allowances of Rs. 2,941-3-1 payable to the Chiefs and Naiks. In addition to the above cash amounts, turbans, *shelas* and foodgrains were given to the Chiefs and Naiks at the time of the annual Darbar. The cost of these articles worked out to Rs. 4,000. The total amount payable to them thus worked out to Rs. 61,368.

The time and manner in which these amounts were distributed among the Chiefs and Naiks were very interesting. For this purpose, 3 Darbars were held every year. The first Darbar called the Annual Darbar was held in February or March, the second in June and the third in November or December every year. The amount of Rs. 17,879-6-8 out of the sum of Rs. 35,826-13-4 of the forest subsidy was given to the Chiefs and Naiks in bags according to the shares of various Chiefs and Naiks. The amounts disbursed to them are stated below .

		Rs.
1	Chief of Gadhvi	4,275-10-8
2	Chief of Dehar	3,103-10-8
3	Chief of Amala	3,242-8-0
4	Naik of Pimpri	2,951-5-0
5	Chief of Wasurna	2,474-13-0
6	Naik of Kirli	414-14-8
7	Naik of Shivbara	414-14-8
8	Naik of Chinchli	349-0-0
9	Naik of Avchar	149-0-0
10	Naik of Piplaidevi	119-5-4
11	Naik of Palasvihir	105-14-8
12	Naik of Wadiawan	180-0-0
13	Naik of Bilbari	66-6-0
14	Naik of Zari-Garkhadi	32-0-0
	Total	17,879-6-8

In addition to the forest subsidy, they were given in packets in open Darbar, the amounts on account of non-agricultural assessment, grazing fees and the gun licence fees recovered from the respective areas of the Chiefs and Naiks concerned. The turbans and *shelas* were also given to the Chiefs and Naiks and Bhaubandhs at this Darbar. Foodgrains and other articles were given before the Darbar. If any of these persons were not available, the Chiefs and Naiks were given cash equivalents of these articles according to the prevailing market price. After the Darbar was over, the packets and the forest subsidy amounts were collected back by the Mamlatdar, Dangs and the amounts in each bag was then distributed among the Bhaubandhs and their relatives. The purpose of this subsidiary distribution was to ensure that each relative of the Chiefs and the Naiks received his share at the hands of the Government official.

On the date following the Darbar, another Darbar of the Dangs Patels, Karbharis, and Jagalias was held. In this Darbar, formerly the Political Agent, (now the Collector) reviewed the events of the past year and gave those village officials necessary instructions about their duties. Turbans and silver bangles were distributed for the help rendered by those servants in fire protection and for good meritorious services to the Government. The remaining amount of Rs. 17,947-6-8 out of Rs. 35,826-13-4 (forest subsidy) was paid in two equal instalments, in each of the two Darbars which were held in April or May and November or December every year. These two Darbars were simple functions and the following subsidy amounts were paid to the Chiefs and Naiks in packets in open Darbar according to the shares of each Chief and Naik :

		Rs.
1	Chief of Gadhvi	2,137-13-4
2	Chief of Deher	1,551-13-4
3	Chief of Amala	1,621-4-0
4	Naik of Pimpri	1,475-10-8
5	Chief of Wasurna	1,237-6-8
6	Naik of Kirli	207-7-4
7	Naik of Shivbara	207-7-4
8	Naik of Chinchli	174-8-0
9	Naik of Avchar	74-8-0
10	Naik of Piplaidevi	59-8-0
11	Naik of Palasvihir	52-15-4
12	Naik of Wadiawan	90-0-0
13	Naik of Bilbari	33-5-4
14	Naik of Zari-Garkhadi	50-0-0
	Total ..	8,973-11-4 = 8,974

According to the G. R., R. D. No. 4534 dated 25th April, 1923, these amounts were treated as personal subsidies of the Chiefs and Naiks and no shares of their Bhaubandhs were officially recognised by the Government. The amount of Rs. 16,000 on account of land revenue was repaid to the Chiefs, Naiks and their Bhaubandhs. It was not paid at the Darbar but a different procedure was followed. The land revenue on realisation was credited to the "Head XXV-A Dangs Districts Dangs—Receipts III Land Revenue." At the time of repayment, it was drawn by the Mamlatdar on contingent bills for each Dang State, which were made payable to the Chiefs and Naiks concerned. The amounts were then credited to the general accounts of Chiefs and Naiks concerned which were maintained by the Mamlatdar. As the land revenue was based on the *autbandi* (plough tax) system, the amount of land revenue fluctuated from year to year.

Prior to 1908, the Chiefs and Naiks recovered the land revenue amounts themselves but when Government noticed that violent and coercive means were employed by the Chiefs and Naiks, it was arranged to recover land revenue through the Government agency and pay it to the Chiefs and Naiks in the manner stated above. It should be noted that Government did not deduct any amount either for collection or for any other reason.

All the above practices regarding payment of subsidy, land revenue and of holding Darbars were continued even after the merger of the Dangs State in 1948. But they underwent changes after 1950.

The Collector of Dangs reported to Government of Bombay in 1950[1] as under :

> "As long as the present loose system is continued, I see the very real danger of mistaken ideas about possession of land, etc., entering the minds of the Chiefs. *It may at some future date be made to appear to them that all the lands in the Dangs belong to them because the Government collects the revenue for these lands on their behalf, etc.*"

He, therefore, proposed that a consolidated lump sum called 'civil list' or 'political pension' might be sanctioned to prevent the spread of such erroneous views and beliefs. The amount of political pension might be fixed on the basis of the forests subsidies, land revenue, non-agricultural assessment, grazing fees and gun licence fees payable to the Chiefs. All these items should be consolidated and increased by 20 per cent. This consolidated amount should be subdivided and distributed among the Chiefs and their Bhaubandhs. Secondly, the *giras* and other fixed allowances might be payable from the Ahwa Sub-treasury.

1. The Collector of Dangs, letter No. ADM/49 (confl.), dated 7th January, 1950 to Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay.

Thirdly, half share of land revenue from the Dangs villages co-shared with the former Baroda Government should be credited to the Dangs account. Fourthly, the land revenue of the five Jagiri villages (Zari Garkhadi, Keshband, Biliamba, Jamela and Timber-Thawa) might be continued to be recovered by the Jagirdars till the Jagirs were abolished.

As a result, the question of the post-merger status of the Dangs and the rights and privileges of the Dangs Chiefs and Naiks engaged the attention of the Government of Bombay. Soon after its merger in the Bombay State, the question was considered at the district, the State and the Central levels from 1949 to 1954. After careful consideration, the Government of Bombay issued final orders in 1954.[1] In the preamble of the Government Resolution, Government discussed the question whether an agreement should be taken from the Dangs Chiefs and Naiks for the settlement of their rights and privileges. Inquiries were made to ascertain whether any agreement was taken by the British from the Dangs Chiefs. It was found that in the past, demarcation of the forests in the Dangs territories was made by Government on the basis of the recommendations of the Commission on Dangs Forests appointed in 1878. As the Chiefs assented to the proposed demarcation, no agreement was entered into. Secondly, when the rents payable to the Chiefs were increased from time to time and additional privileges were given to them, no formal documents were executed in respect of those increased rents and additional privileges. As the leases were only forests leases, the Chiefs continued to be entitled to the land revenue. Lastly, at the time of their merger in 1948 into the Indian territory as the part of the Bombay State (then Province) under provisions of the Bombay (Enlargement of Areas and Alterations of Boundaries) Order, 1947, no agreement was taken from the Chiefs on the ground that they were too illiterate and would not be able to understand the implications of any agreement signed by them. Their consent to the merger was, therefore, presumed. In the context of such historical background, it was considered unnecessary to execute any agreement for grant of the political pensions to the Chiefs and Naiks in 1954.

In order to avoid any future controversy or embarrassment, Government decided that the post-merger status, rights and privileges of the Dangs Chiefs and Naiks should be settled once for all. The expenses incurred by Government in connection with the rights and privileges of the Chiefs and the Naiks amounted to Rs. 61,377 which were paid at three separate Darbars. It was decided that this amount should be consolidated into one amount and should be raised by hundred per cent and that the payment should be made to them as "*political pension*" *as a permanent measure in lieu of the rights and privileges of the Dangs Chiefs and Naiks and their relatives.* The payment of political pension should be made on an *ad hoc*

1. Government of Bombay, Political and Services Department, Resolution No. 1366/52, dated 19th November, 1954, (Confi.).

basis in lump and not for any particular items of rights as before. Further, these payments should be treated as hereditary and should be governed by the law of primogeniture in order to avoid any divisions in future. The amounts of the political pensions so sanctioned to different Chiefs, Naiks and their Bhaubandhs are stated below for facility of reference :

Sl. No.	Name of the Dang	Designation	Amount of political pension payable to Chief/Naik	Bhaubandhs		Lowest pension paid in Rs.
				Number	Amounts payable	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
			Rs. P.		Rs. P.	
1	Gadhvi ..	.. Chief	18,504.23	146	31,164.23	2
2	Deher ..	.. Chief	12,597.60	64	19,284.40	2
3	Amala ..	.. Chief	13,971.82	100	21,696.82	4
4	Pimpri ..	.. Naik	15,211.28	80	20,850.28	2
5	Wasurna ..	.. Chief	11,335.90	145	16,685.40	2
6	Kirli ..	.. Naik	2,612.78	23	3,736.78	2
7	Shivbara ..	.. Naik	1,929.28	17	2,461.28	4
8	Chinchli ..	.. Naik	2,472.37	20	3,874.37	2
9	Avchar ..	.. Naik	998.75	16	1,702.75	2
10	Palasvihir ..	.. Naik	662.45	10	814.28	4
11	Piplaidevi ..	.. Naik	907.12	13	965.12	2
12	Wadiawan ..	.. Naik	635.62	15	1,037.12	2
13	Bilbari ..	.. Naik	463.97	3	537.28	13.33
14	Zari-Garkhadi	.. Naik	366.75	10	404.75	1

It will be seen from the above details that there are some Bhaubandhs who get Rs. 2 only as their annual political pension and in some cases, there are more than one shareholder in this very limited amount. The amounts are paid at the time of Darbar. They come personally to receive the small amounts of pension incurring more expenditure than their amount of the pension, because they deem it an honour to receive them from the Government officers.

Prior to the fixing of the political pension, they used to get the amounts of forest subsidy, land revenue—*halpatti*—non-agricultural assessment, half grazing fees, Giras, gun licence fees, actually collected from their respec-

tive Dangs and distributed these amounts among their Bhaubandhs in order to maintain their status. *Before merger,* the people of the Dangs were required to cultivate the lands of the Chiefs and Naiks, to pay land revenue penalties imposed by them for various purposes, and when they visited any village. the villagers had to supply all the provisions including liquor and goats and some times other animals also. People used to pay respects to them. Their word was law and people had to obey it by any means. It is said that they harassed the people too much during those days. Even to-day, when a Chief or Naik visits a village of his former State, the villagers have to supply provisions by way of custom.

Since the Dangs Chiefs and Naiks were illiterate and they did not know their financial obligations, it was felt that it would be in the interest of the Chiefs of Gadhvi, Deher, Amala and Wasurna and the Naik of Pimpri who received large amounts that their expenditures were controlled by the Mamlatdar, Dangs ; otherwise they were likely to squander away entire amounts. Government, therefore, decided that the amounts of the Dangs Chiefs of Gadhvi, Deher. Amala, Wasurna and the Naik of Pimpri should be paid to them from the sub-treasury at Ahwa and taken back by the Mamlatdar of Dangs with their consent and paid to them when required. This practice of payment was to be continued till such time as they became literate and came to realize their financial obligations. This was meant to control their expenditure so as to maintain their status by persuading them to have decent houses. carts, agricultural implements etc., and to enable them to give education to their children and to keep marriage expenses within reasonable limits.

After settlement of the political pensions, it was decided that the practice of holding of all other Darbars except the Patilki Darbar should be discontinued. At the Patilki Darbar, annual emoluments amounting to Rs. 1,100 should be paid to Patils, Karbharis and Jagalias of all the villages of the Dangs district. This was a remuneration for their revenue and other duties. Formerly, they were also given at the Darbar, *shelas* and silver bangles as reward for fire protection by the Forest Department through the agency of the Revenue Department. This practice was changed from 1951 and instead of *shelas* and bangles, they were given articles useful to them such as blankets, brass-*lotas* or lanterns and buckets. The total expenditure for this came to Rs. 9,000 per annum. This was a reward for their services for fire protection in the Dangs forests. Government decided that the above mentioned payments should be continued to be made at the time of the Patilki Darbar.

Government directed the Collector of Dangs to call the principal Chiefs and communicate to them these orders of Government. The Collector was specifically asked *to inform the Chiefs that these amounts would be in lieu of all their rights and privileges.*

In order to enable the Chiefs and Naiks of Dangs to construct better houses and educate their children, the Government of Gujarat was kind enough to grant an increase of 15 per cent in their annual amount of the political pension sanctioned for them as *ex-gratia* payment for a period of five years in the first instance, i. e., from 1st May, 1960 to 30th April, 1965. This increase was subsequently continued for a further period of five years, i. e., 1st May, 1965 to 30th April, 1970. In March, 1971, it was further continued for a period of three years upto April, 1973, (vide Government of Gujarat G. A. D. Resolution No. 1270-1760 GH, dated 10th March, 1971).

With a view to ensuring that the amount is utilised for the purpose for which it is granted, Government have decided that the amount should be kept in the Personal Ledger Account of the Collector and the Collector should satisfy himself regarding the purpose and bonafides for withdrawal of the amount from time to time from the Personal Ledger Account.

To sum up, the Government orders of 1954 extinguished all rights and privileges of the Chiefs and Naiks of the Dangs by granting them hereditary political pensions fixed on an *ad hoc* basis.

ANNEXURE I

Forest Lease of 1842

We Oodeysing Valud Joravarsing and others, proprietors of Dang Garvi having assembled at Moolair, and after due consultation among ourselves do deliberately and with pleasure enter to the following agreement with Mr. H. N. Reeves, Collector of Khandesh, on the part of the Honourable East India Company.

We make over the whole of the timber trade of country called Garvi to the Honourable East India Company as follows :

First, The Honourable East India Company shall have the full and sole power to conserve or cut down any timber of whatever sort contained in the said tract or plant any other timber therein.

Second, We are to be permitted to cut and carry what bamboos or rafters we require for our own private use only.

Third, The Honourable East India Company shall also have the exclusive power of establishing Nakas of levying all taxes on the timber or other articles which may be carried from the said tract either by land or by water.

Fourth, The Honourable East India Company is hereby empowered to clear land in the said tract, if such may be the pleasure of Government and, to provide for the cultivation of the same with the view to the improvement of our country. The revenue obtained from cultivated spots to be settled by the British Government and to be received by us.

Fifth, The Honourable East India Company is also empowered to provide for the transit of the timber to the coast by improving the present tracts or by making any new ones which may be found necessary.

Sixth, The Honourable East India Company may give up the forest whenever they shall think fit to do so, giving six months' notice, to enable us to make other arrangements, and the Timber Agent to carry off any timber already cut.

Seventh, In consideration of the above the Honourable East India Company are to pay us as follows : i. e. for such periods of the under-mentioned years as they may choose to retain possession of the Forest.

From 1844 to 1849 inclusive 2,700 Rupees, Koonta included per annum.

ANNEXURE I—*concld.*

From 1850 to 1859 inclusive of the above sum with the addition of 50 Rupees each successive year as follows :

In	Rs.	In	Rs.
1850	2,750	1855 ..	3000
1851	2,800	1856 ..	3,050
1852	2,850	1857	3,100
1853	2,900	1858	3,150
1854	2,950	1859	3,200

Eighth, The annual sums above named to be paid in four instalments at Garvi to our "Mukhtyar" through the Timber Agent.

Ninth, We do bind ourselves not to offer any obstruction to the British Government Timber Agent but to assist him in any possible manner in the performance of his duty; and if our people offer themselves for the task of cutting down timber, the Agent is on all occasions to avail himself of their services, and to remunerate them in the same manner as other people employed by him.

Tenth, At the expiration of 16 years the Honourable East India Company shall, if they require, take out another lease on such terms as shall then appear equitable under the altered state of the timber forests.

ANNEXURE II

Forest Lease of 1862

CHIEFS' AGREEMENT WITH GOVERNMENT

Memorandum prepared in accordance with Government Resolution No. 5412-59-Confidential, Revenue Department, dated 26th June, 1894, showing what the Rajas and Naiks of the Dangs have agreed upon with Government.

A—*Vide* Agreement regarding lease of Forest Rights of 13th January, 1862 and signed by the marginally noted Rajahs and Naiks and others.

	Rs. A. P.
Rajah of Garvi	3,230-0-0
Do. of Derbhawati	2,330-0-0
Do. of Amala	2,280-0-0
Do. of Wasurna	1,735-0-0
Naik of Pimpri	2,230-0-0
Do. of Kirli	312-8-0
Do. of Sivbara	312-8-0
Do. of Chinchli	112-8-0
Do. of Awchar	112-8-0
Do. of Ketakkadupada	80-0-0
Do. of Palaswihir out of Derbhawati	80-0-0
Do. of Wadhiawan	60-0-0
Do. of Zari Garkhadi	24-0-0
Pradhan of Pipladewi	90-0-0
Powar of Bhilbari	50-0-0
Total	**13,039-0-0**

"We agree to lease the said forest on the following conditions on receipt of Rs. 13,039 annually." The amount in each case is entered against the name of the Dangs above.

"1 That the Timber Agent should pay the said amount to us or to our Mukhtyar in two instalments annually from the year 1861-62; that we have no objection to Government's enjoying the forest as long as they wish on payment of the said sum annually.

"2. That in the said forest Government has exclusive right to protect, cut or plant every sort of tree.

"3. That we shall not be prevented from taking wood and timber for domestic purposes, but we shall not cut or remove timber except for such purposes.

ANNEXURE II—*concld.*

"4. That Government shall have exclusive right to take the revenue derived from timber and other forest produce, and to establish Nakas on land or water and to create and levy new taxes.

"5. That Government shall have the right to cut and remove timber in order to prepare land for cultivation, and, when the land is so prepared, to fix the assessment and make it payable to us.

"6. That Government shall have the right to construct and repair roads for the conveyance of timber to the sea and to this we shall not object.

"7. That Government may at their pleasure resign the said jungle, but 6 months' previous notice should be given to us in order that we may have time to lease out forest otherwise, and so that Government may not find it difficult to remove their cut timber.

"8. That we shall assist the Timber Agent in every respect. If our people are taken to work, the timber agent shall pay them.

"Postscript—That we shall not mortgage, sell or alienate our Watan land or Kunti allowance or any other privileges to any one residing in the British or Gaikwar Territory or elsewhere without the sanction of Government.

"If anything of the above nature is done without the sanction of Government it will be null and void. If necessity arises we shall first obtain the sanction of Government : without it nothing will be done as aforesaid."

ANNEXURE II-A

Formation of Reserved Forests

Agreement regarding formation of Reserved Forests, dated 2nd May 1889 and signed by all the Rajahs and Naiks who signed the agreement set out next above.

" I understand that Government wish to reserve for forests some portion of my Dang, and I learn that if this be done, no one will be allowed to enter* the porition so reserved without the permission of Forest Officers.

" I willingly and gladly agree to this agreement, only on the understanding that sufficient land for cultivation will be left outside the forest so reserved and I and my people will be allowed to use the trees outside forest so reserved for agricultural and domestic purposes, but shall not be allowed to use them for sale or barter.

" I also understand that if by this arrangement any damage will accrue to me, Government will be recommended to increase the allowance given to me for my forest rights, to recoup the loss. "

*No one is ever required to take permission for entering the Reserves which are traversed in all directions by roads and foot-paths.

ANNEXURE III

Government Resolution, Political Department No. 3190, dated 21st November, 1868--Gaekwad's claims in the Dangs.

RESOLUTION :

"His Excellency the Governor in Council entirely concurs in the conclusions arrived at by the Commissioners in regard to the jurisdiction claimed by the Gaekwar in the co-shared Dang villages, and would tell His Highness plainly that the exercise of any jurisdiction, either Civil or Criminal, by his officers will not be permitted.

2. As regards the question of the Gaekwar's right to a share in the Forest proceeds, the Governor in Council endorses the opinion of the Commissioners that the Dangs Chiefs being the original proprietors, all acquisitions of the Gaekwar must be proved either by cession or usance, and in this view, it is not unreasonable that certain rights should have been acquired, while other rights remained with the original proprietors.

3. The only documents which really go to prove the Gaekwar's right at all are Appendices F. and C. to the Commissioners' report, which are explained in a different sense by those who executed the documents. These documents give, as it seems to Government, some right to the profits from wood, but the whole right is that which has been exercised and that alone-the right of taxing wood as it passes the *nakas*

4. It is quite clear that the Gaekwar's right was a limited one, and his own accounts show that when the British Government stopped the cutting of the jungles, the proceeds of the transit duties ceased altogether and the Gaekwar did not and could not insist on the reopening of the jungles.

5. It may then be conceded that the Gaekwar has the right of deriving revenue from wood passing through the *nakas*.

6. But it seems to His Excellency the Governor in Council highly desirable to cut of the direct connection of the Gaekwar with these Dangs. The mode in which His Highness's Government conducts its revenue management is likely to lead to disturbances among these with tribes some day, and as hence-forth the rights of the British Government as regards jurisdiction will be strictly enforced, it may be not unacceptable to the Gaekwar to accept permanently a fixed annual payment from the British Government in lieu of the uncertain revenues realized from the co-shared villages direct.

ANNEXURE III—*concld.*

7. The British Government would guarantee the annual payment of this sum and collect the revenue from the Dang Chiefs, making good any deficiency therein. The Gaekwar would withdraw all *nakas* in the Dangs, it being optional with the British Government to continue them or not, and in the latter case, to raise a revenue otherwise. In fact, all interference on the part of the Gaekwar would cease. The amount that the Governor in Council would propose to guarantee to the Gaekwar is Rs. 950 annually, this being the maximum sum ever received by him in one year from the co-shared villages from all sources of revenue, including the rent from Shamrao Ramchunder under his lease of the Kirlee and Sewbara forests. The average of 20 years, to 1862-63 would be only Rs. 574-5-7 per annum."

ANNEXURE IV

List of Co-shared Villages

Name of Dang	No.	Name of villages	Whether inhabited or deserted in 1904	Rate of assessment for each village
1	2	3	4	5
1 Dang Derbhavati	1	Jugerbhel	Inhabited	Rs. 1 to 15
	2	Borkhadi	Deserted	Do.
	3	Saverkhal	Do.	Do.
	4	Jamansonda	Inhabited	Do.
	5	Amboor	Deserted	Do.
	6	Jokthawa	Inhabited	Do.
	7	Shivgana	Do.	Fixed rate Rs. 6 per plough
	8	Juner	Do.	Rs. 1 to 15
	9	Pimpal Dahad	Do.	Do.
	10	Shivbarapada	Do.	Fixed rate Rs. 5 per plough
	11	Nishna	Do.	Rs. 1 to 15
	12	Kaksala	Do.	Do.
	13	Zarnapada	Do.	Fixed rate Rs. 6 per plough
	14	Dokpada	Deserted	Rs. 1 to 15
	15	Bhondneer	Do.	Fixed rate Rs. 5 per plough
2 Dang Kirli ..	16	Khamla	Inhabited	Rs. 1 to 15
	17	Sinthawa	Deserted	
	18	Bardipada	Inhabited	Rs. 1 to 15
	19	Taklipada	Deserted	
	20	Amthawa	Do.	Rs. 1 to 15
	21	Gavahan	Inhabited	Do.
	22	Amsurpada	Do.	Do.
	23	Khajurni	Do.	Do.
	24	Tamsurpada	Deserted	Do.
	25	Khamthawa	Do.	
	26	Garatvihir	Do.	Rs. 1 to 15
3 Dang Avchar ..	27	Dodepada or Mothi Doomri	Do.	Fixed rate Rs. 6 per plough
	28	Dodepada or Lahan Doomri	Do.	Do.
4 Dang Shivbara ..	29	Pahasa	Do.	Rs. 1 to 15
	30	Waghdarda	Do.	Fixed rate Rs.6 per plough
	31	Mahalpada	Do.	

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ANNEXURE IV—*concld.*

Name of Dang	No.	Name of villages	Whether inhabited or deserted in 1904	Rate of assessment for each village
1	2	3	4	5
5 Dang Palasvihir ..	32	Dholea Umber	Deserted	Fixed rate Rs. 5 per plough
	33	Janlipada	Inhabited	Do.
	34	Chimbriheer	Deserted	Rs. 1 to 15
6 Dang Gadhvi ..	35	Charvi	Inhabited	Raja absent there-fore no co-shared at present
	36	Bibuchapada	Do.	Rs. 1 to 15
	37	Samrkhada	Do.	Fixed rate Rs. 6 per plough
	38	Malija Buzurg	Do.	Rs. 1 to 15
	39	Kala Mothi	Do.	Do.
	40	Sanerday	Deserted	Do.
	41	Valotlachapada	Inhabited	Do.
	42	Bijaipada	Do.	Do.
	43	Bedwan	Do.	Do.
	44	Katharwad	Deserted	
	45	Ganesh Dhori	Do.	
	46	Boora	Do.	Rs. 1 to 15
	47	Dhoolda	Do.	Do.
	48	Kusumbda	Inhabited	Fixed rate Rs. per plough
	49	Bardipada	Do.	Do.
	50	Kakarde	Do.	Do.
	51	Kalibel	Do.	Do.
	52	Sajukpada	Do.	Do.

Source :

Selections from the Records of the Baroda Government, No. X, Vol. III, *Dang Case*, (1935), pp. 36–37 and 39–40.

ANNEXURE V

Government Resolution in the Political Department No. 1806, dated 19th April 1879.†

RESOLUTION—His Excellency in Council considers that these claims should be disposed of as follows :

1. The question of co-shared villages was not before the Committee and should never have been reopened. His Highness the Gaekwar's Government should be informed that Government accept his own list of co-shared villages given in 1862*, and will not allow any fresh claims to be made for the reasons given in paragraph 6 of the Commissioner's report No. 1465 of March 31st, 1873.

2. The claim to the four villages, Jeerran, Dotun, Kaldur and Dokpara should be settled according to the boundary laid down by Mr. Harvey in 1850 ; if they lie outside that boundary, they must be made over to His Highness the Gaekwar ; but Khapatia having been entered in the Gaekwar's own list of co-shared villages must be held to be a co-shared, not a khalsa village.

3. The claim of the Gaekwar to territorial possessions and forest rights in the Dang was negatived after full enquiry in 1868 and 1871, and Government must adhere to the Government Resolutions No. 3190, dated 21st November 1868 and No. 5919, dated 14th April 1871. His Highness the Gaekwar has never enjoyed the right to establish *nakas* either in the co-shared villages or in those of the Dang Chiefs either for the levy of Koonta on timber or transit duties on general traffic, and Government therefore cannot now recognise a claim to that effect. If the *naka* at Gowan has been retained, it should now be removed ; for the Darbar admitted that it was established not as a transit *naka*, but merely to take a note of the timber removed from the Kirli and Sewbara Dangs by Shamrao Ramchunder.

4. The claim of His Highness the Gaekwar to establish liquor shops in the Dang has been rejected by the Committee and their decision must be upheld.

5. With regard to the eight villages around the Fort of Saler, which His Highness the Gaekwar claims, it is to be noted that in 1845, Mr. Bell

† BOMANJI K. R., *Dang Boundary Dispute*, compiled under the orders of the Government of Bombay, (1903), pp. 38-40.

* The list is given in Annexure IV.

ANNEXURE V—*concld.*

reported that "all the villages round the Fort are in the possession of our Government", that the Gaekwar has repeatedly declared that he has only one Khalsa village, Chimba, in the Dang, and he should now be restricted to the Fort of Saler as enclosed within the walls, which was all he demanded when it was handed over to him in 1845."

"Government are entitled to a share of the Mokasa amals of Saler in proportion to the amount levied by the Gaekwar. But the Government of His Highness the Gaekwar has refused for years to give any account of its receipts from this source. The Agent to the Governor General should now be requested to urge the Darbar to render an account and claims of Government should be settled."

6. The award of the Committee as to the arrears of Giras due to Trimbuck Naik, viz., Rs. 1,379-2-0, is accepted. The Darbar's receipts for Rs. 397-4-8 having been "sealed with the wrong seal" must be rejected, and the Agent to the Governor General should be requested to urge on the Darbar the necessity of paying the Giras of all the Chiefs, Dangs and Mehwasi, through the Khandesh treasury in the same way as the Giras of Trimbuck Naik is paid.

"The timber of the village of Nishana having been leased to Government, the Gaekwari Wahivatdar has cut down all the timber on the ground that it is a co-shared village. The loss in this case falls on Government, and the right to compensation will be waived, but the Agent to the Governor General should be requested to inform the Darbar that Government will not permit any further interference with the timber of any of the village in the Dang, co-shared or otherwise."

"If His Highness the Gaekwar will consent to receive Rs. 950 per annum for his rights on the co-shared villages, Government are prepared to guarantee the payment of this sum, and it would probably be sufficient to pay the claim of the Chiefs to Giras from the Gaekwar. It might be treated as an offset against the Giras, and the balance only paid after adjustment."

"The Agent to the Governor General should be asked to be good enough to urge the Darbar to depute an officer to settle the boundary which remains to be laid down of the small portion of the north-east corner of the Dang in conjunction with an officer of the British Government and at the same time to settle the question whether the four villages of paragraph 2 are inside or outside of the boundary of 1850."

ANNEXURE VI

Report of the Commission on Dang Forest

(MR. J. R. NAYLOR'S OPINION ON THE STATUS OF THE DANGS)

Proceedings of a Committee appointed by Government in Resolution No. 4542 of 4th September, 1878 Revenue Department Memorandum on the Legal Position of the Government of Bombay with regard to the Dangs.

The Dangs do not form part of British India. They have never been conquered or annexed by our Government, nor have they been ceded to us. They are still foreign territory.

2. But in 1844, the Collector of Khandesh took leases of the Dangs Forest from the Rajas. These were renewed in 1861 and these renewed leases, which are now in force, give Government a right to hold the forest, as long as it shall please, at a fixed rent. The leases are not by any means artistically drawn, and they do not clearly define either the limits of forest to which they relate or the rights and power of Government as lessee of the same. The following clauses alone attempt to describe the privileges to be enjoyed by Government.

> "It is hereby authorised to protect, cut down, plant, sow or dispose of in the manner they choose all the lakde (Timber) now in the above Jungle. No one else has any claim whatever thereto nor will any hindrance on our part be afforded. We will take as much timber (poles, rafters and etc) as will only be required for our own houses but will not cut timber on any other account other than that for our own houses."

> "Government can collect any revenue accruing from timber and other articles produced in the jungle, establish a Naka on land or road or sea or levy other cess. Government can clear the land on any part of the Dangs, give it for cultivation, settle the proper rent thereof and cause the revenue to be paid to us. Government can construct new roads or repair old ones for the conveyance of timber to the sea. We will make no objection to the above."

3. If such a lease had been executed in British India between two British subjects, I do not doubt that the lessee would be held entitled to resort to demarcation or to any other system of forestry that he thought fit in order to protect the trees against destruction by the lessors or by any person claiming under the lessors. But if parties enjoyed rights of cultivation

ANNEXURE VI—*contd.*

or any other rights in the forest independently of the lessors, such right would of course not be (torn) from the lessors.

4. Now there exists, I understand, some 18,500 persons within the limits of the Dangs, who are nominally the subject of the Rajas who have leased these forests to us, and who have always wandered at will over these forests carrying on a little cultivation from year to year in whatever spots seemed to them for the time most suitable or convenient. These people have no fixed abode for as soon as one spot become unpleasant or unsuitable to them, they shift their quarters and settle down in some new parts of the forests. Each change of cultivation and each shifting of abode involves more or less destruction to the forests.

5. As these people are the subjects of the Rajas or lessors, it would appear *prima facie* that they claimed under them and therefore that in the interest of our stake in the forests we are entitled to call upon the Rajas to restrain them from destroying any part of the forests which Government determined to protect. As a matter of fact, however, the Rajas are mere syphers in the country, the people themselves savages and the only power exercised in the Dangs is exercised by our own Political Agent and Assistant Political Agent.

6. Under these circumstances, it becomes impossible to say whether people's rights in the forest exist independently of the will of the Rajas or not. All that can be safely said is that they have never yet been interfered with and that any interference with them in future whether by the Rajas or by ourselves would probably be resented with violence and lead to reversal of the happy state of contentedness which has hitherto characterised these simple people of the Dangs.

7. On the other hand as the leases relate to foreign territory, no question could be raised concerning them in the courts of British India and there is no tribunal to which the Rajas or the people could appeal but Government itself. It appears that by the acquiescence of the Rajas, Government has acquired in the Dangs the powers and right of administering or superintending the administration of justice. In exercise of this power, Government could no doubt, make it a punishable offence for the people to trespass within any demarcated portion of the forest, or to cultivate or touch any trees beyond certain prescribed limits. The peculiar political position of Government in fact enables it to do much that mere private persons in the same legal position could not possibly attempt. The carrying out of any such arrangements as those contemplated, depends, therefore, more upon might than upon right and the question that the committee has to face is not so much what can Government legally do in order to preserve

ANNEXURE VI—*concld.*

the forests, but what measures is it expedient and politic for Government to attempt to enforce whether with or without the nominal assent of the Rajas, in restraint of the immemorial usages and habits of the people.

In this view of the matter, the measures to be recommended must depend not so much on legal consideration as upon the knowledge and discrimination of these gentlemen, who have experience of the temper and mode of life of the people, and are able to say what can and what cannot be enforced without exciting their resentment, or unduly circumscribing their ancient liberties.

(Sd.) J. R. NAYLOR.
Legal Remembrancer.

ANNEXURE VII

Extract from Chapter VII of Tupper's Indian Political Practice

THE CASE OF THE DANGS

This, then, is a case of State territory being converted into a Scheduled District. On the other hand, when the Bombay Government proposed, in February, 1889, to treat the Dangs as a tract of country in the Khandesh Political Agency, as British territory, the Government of India declined. The area of the Dangs is believed to be 800 square miles, and the population some 32,000. The territory lies on the west of the Sahyadri range, not far north of Pient, on the confines of Baroda and Khandesh. The country is in the hands of a confederacy of Bhil Chiefs ; it is poor, covered with forests, and exceptionally unhealthy. Originally seven Chiefs were recognised but the number has increased to fifteen recognised Chiefs, of whom five claimed the title of Raja. In 1842 the British Government took from these Bhil Chiefs a lease of their Forests, and the lease was renewed in 1862. The powers thus obtained include complete control over the forests, and extend to the settlement of Land Revenue and the redemption of transit duties. The Bombay Government gave many instances of authoritative interference and the personal punishment of Chiefs and said, in summing up the case : "The British Government is the lessee of all that is valuable in the Dangs. It is also, apart from its leases, the paramount power over the Chiefs. In this last capacity, it has fined and imprisoned and hung Chiefs and their subjects for serious criminal offences. It has introduced no laws. It has interfered to appoint and dismiss Dewans, and to banish obnoxious settlers. Its power has not been questioned, though never defined. It has exercised criminal jurisdiction, and nipped civil suits in the bud by arbitration ". As to the other side of the case, we cannot do better than to quote a minute of July 1, 1889, by Sir Andrew Scoble, Law Member of Council. 'Upon the question of fact,' he wrote, 'whether the Dangs are British territory or not, the historical evidence appears to be complete that they are not'. In Mr. Mansfield's narrative of 21st June 1854 (Bombay Selections, page 165) he states : Before 1818 the Bhil Rajas of the Dang appear to have preserved their independence during the rule of the Native Governments, and until the arrangement of 1842-1843 for lease of their teak forests, the British Government relations with the Dangs Rajas appear to have been confined to the repression of their depredations of Gaekwar's and British villages. Up to 1854 the Dangs had "paid no tribute of any kind to the British Government or to any of the neighbouring States" (Mansfield's Narrative, page 161), and according to the same authority (page 185) the administration of Civil and Criminal justice was in the hands of the Rajas, who "investigate all offences and

ANNEXURE VII—*contd.*

disputes according to ancient customs, punishing principally by fines, and without any regular system of procedure or organised law." This state of things existed, according to Mr. Mansfield, after the British Government had taken 'political charge of the country', though the political charge appears soon to have led to civilising interference with sentences of undue severity :

"In 1867, the Gaekwar having asserted certain claims over the Dangs Chiefs, they were investigated by Messrs Pritchard and Reeves on behalf of the Bombay Government. In their reports these gentlemen say : 'It is admitted on all hands that the Dang Chiefs were the original Lords of the country ;' and they find that the Gaekwar had no territorial right even in the villages in which he claims to exercise Revenue or other jurisdiction. The pretensions of the Baroda Darbar were accordingly rejected, and in reviewing the case the Government of India wrote, in their letter of the 14th December, 1870 that 'long previously to 1847-48' the Chiefs had come under British jurisdiction, the Chiefs themselves deciding petty cases and the Political Agent more serious cases, and that the system was still in force in 1867."

"In 1873, the Gaekwar's encroachment still continuing, Mr. Ashburner, an officer of great experience in Khandesh, wrote "to beg that Government should either abandon the protectorate of the Dangs, or take effectual measures to protect the Chiefs from the aggression of their unscrupulous neighbours."

"In their letter of 8th November 1883 to the Government of India, the Bombay Government reviewed the whole case, and stated that after the British obtained possession of Khandesh in 1818, the Bhils were gradually brought into order by British influence, and 'the political superintendence of the British Government was thrown over the Dangs, and the British jurisdiction was assumed in all cases of serious crimes.' In other paragraphs they speak of the Dangs Chiefs having become 'feudatories of the British Government' and of 'the exercise of the paramount authority of the British Government' in the Dang country."

"In their reply, dated 4th April, 1884, the Government of India came to the conclusion that 'the Gaekwar possesses no right within the territory of the Dangs beyond the right to a limited share in certain forest produce', and the duty of making 'such arrangements as may be necessary in order to guard for the future the right of the Dang Chiefs' is adverted to."

ANNEXURE VII—*concld.*

"In all these proceedings, I find nowhere any assertions that the Dang country is British territory. On the contrary the battle of the Dang Chiefs is fought throughout, and when a proposal was under discussion for an exchange of territory in order to get rid of the Gaekwar's claims, Mr. Propert remarked—'it would be unjust for Government to make over any Dang villages to the Gaekwar, as the Dang villages in no way belong to Government'. Foreign Proceedings. April, 1884, No. 251."

"I therefore agree with Sir H. M. Durant that historically these Dangs are not British territory, but protected States. If the order of 4th July, 1862 is not repealed, and it is deemed expedient to introduce a more formal system of administration, I should on general grounds, think it desirable to convert them into a scheduled District. The Chiefs would probably not raise any greater objections to this form of proceeding than to a Notification under the Foreign Jurisdiction Act, and, in either case, I presume, the present state of things would be left practically unaltered."

The Government of India replied to the Bombay Government in letter No. 2874-I, dated July 16, 1889 which was in these words :—"There is no doubt much to be said for the view favoured by the Government of Bombay, which is inclined to regard these tracts as having become absorbed in British territory. Nevertheless, after careful consideration of the facts, the Government of India have come to the conclusion that there is hardly sufficient grounds for treating them on this assumption, and they must be regarded as still retaining some measures of sovereignty."

"As regards the question of administrative convenience the Governor-General in Council would, on the whole prefer not to disturb the existing arrangements which appear to have worked satisfactorily, in the past. In this wild country, the introduction of laws and regulations seems likely to lead to embarrassment and difficulty. The Government of India are disposed to think that, for a backward community like the Dang Bhils, the strongest and most effective form of control is the personal rule of a British Officer untramelled by anything but executive orders from his own Government."

ANNEXURE VIII

List of Villages of Chiefs and Naiks in the Dangs District at the time of Settlement of Political Pensions

CHIEFS

Gadhvi Dang

1. Bhengdia. 2. Mhaiskatri. 3. Enginpada. 4. Jamanpada. 5. Machi. 6. Sadunia. 7. Tokodahar. 8. Gavaria. 9. Vanhan. 10. Hindol. 12. Mahda. 13. Divdia. 13-A. Chokdhara. 14. Bhalkhet. 15. Vanzatamba. 16. Zaw. 17. Bhiyad. 18. Bilbari. 19. Tekpada. 20. Savarda-Kasad. 21. Gavria. 22. Dhawlidor. 23. Ruimal. 24. Khokhri. 25. Khotal 26. Dhoda. 27. N. A. 28. Jader. 29. Khatal. 30. Sukmal. 31. Kasad. 32. Bandpada. 33. Palasmal. 34. Kakad. 35. Raimal. 36. Chinchli. 37. Gaodahad. 38. Ruima. 39. Chikhli. 40. Chikhada. 41. Bodadia. 42. Shedriamba. 43. Jamania. 44. Burthadi. 45. Kasmal. 46. Kasad. 47. Isdar. 48. Hindla. 49. Kamol. 50. Wakaria. 51. Sadunia. 52. Kalamvihir. 53 Jamlenapada. 54. Awliamal. 55. Pandhaimal. 56. Chankhal. 57. Bohamal. 58. Kotba.

Deher Dang

1. Mokgama. 2. Kosbia. 3. Koshimpatal. 4. Chikar. 5. Koksada. 6. Kasadbbari. 7. Koksala. 8. Nisana. 9. Hanvatpada. 10. Girmal. 11. Pandhlkhadi. 12. Jamniamal. 13. Kadmal. 14. Ghana. 15. Gaigotha. 16. Laochali. 17. Deher. 18. Sawarkhol. 19. Bhed. 20. Hanmatpada.

Amala Dang

1. Isdar. 2. Kosbia. 3. Koshimpatal. 4 Chikar. 5 Halmodi. 6. Ambhonia. 7. Kulilipada. 8. Nandanpada. 9. Ghogli. 10. Gaotala. 11. Kasavdhahod. 12. Pandwa. 13. Sundha. 14. Don. 15 Dabdar 16 Kandolghodi. 17. Piplipada. 18. Mahalpada. 19. Lahan-Charia. 20. Wahi. 21. Pairpada. 22. Dhamkal. 23. Golusada. 24. Amala. 25. Mulchound. 26. Galkund. 27. Choulia 28. Jamdar. 29. Mohpada. 30. Bhisia. 31. Pipalghodi. 32. Nilsakia. 33. Kuhumal. 34. Kosamparal. 35. Bilmal. 36. Matcharia. 37. Umbaschapada. 38. Raochoud. 39. Nirgudmal. 40. Lahan-Dabhas. 41. Gondalvihir. 42. Chichpada. 43. Gaikhas. 44. Taklichapada. 45. Dhodalpada. 46. Umria. 47. Borkhet. 48. Ahwa. 49. Vanar. 50. Pimplia-mahal.

Pimpri Dang

1. Dagdiamba. 2. Borinagavtha. 3. Chichinagavtha. 4. Dhadsa. 5. Kudkas. 6. Nadgakhadi. 7. Bhavandagad. 8. Bhurbhandi. 9. Chiktia.

ANNEXURE VIII—*contd.*

10. Dhulchond. 11. Gira. 12. Baj. 13. Kukadnaki. 14. Bhawadi. 15. Wangan. 16. Sodmal. 17. Dodipada. 18. Waghai. 19. Kalamkhet. 20. Hanwakhol. 21. Jagia. 22. Malir. 23. Kalampkhet. 24. Gunjpada. 25. Sborpada. 26. Amasar. 27. Davdhaad. 28. Barda. 29. Pimpri. 30. Sarwar. 31. Dagadpada.

Wasurna Dang

1. Ghotiachamal. 2. Daranapada. 3. Barmiawad. 4. Rambhas. 5. Wanarchound. 6. Bhapkhar. 7. Wagmal. 8. Motha-Dobdar. 9. Gojbari. 10. Gundra. 11. Lahan-Dabdar. 12. Barkhandia. 13. Khanrmana. 14. Jamkachapada. 15. Dhangadi. 16. Barichapada 17. Aherdi. 18. Dokpatal. 19. Kumbharbhand. 20. Chikhalda. 21. Nandanpada. 22. Bhendmal. 23. Manmodi. 24. Zakhana. 25. Silotmal. 26. Bhadarnapada. 27. Susarda. 28. Lahan. 29. Malumga. 30. Lawria. 31. Warsuna. 32. Nimberpada. 33. Ghodmal. 34. Borinagawtha. 35. Malagoan. 36. Nadagchond. 37. Kunda. 38. Motha-Malungia. 39. Samgwan. 40. Vangarghodi. 41. Pandharnapada. 42. Dagunia. 43. Sonumia. 44. Bibuchapada. 45. Sapamtara. 46. Kuherboth. 47. Sakarpatal. 48. Pordhed. 49. Chinchond. 50. Chaeinapada. 51. Bandermahal. 52. Chikar. 53. Maharichond. 54. Sadasmal. 55. Baradpani. 56. Ambapada. 57. Shiverinamahal. 58. Bhurapahi. 59. Ranpada. 60. Kuternakia. 61. Samgawhan. 62. Supdahada. 63. Barda. 64 Murmi. 65. Chikhli. 66. Uga. 67. Waunda. 68. Sati. 69. Gunval. 70. Motha-Malunga.

NAIKS

Chinchli

1. Nimpada. 2. Hanvatpada. 3. Chinchli. 4. Mahardar. 5. Gadvihir. 6. Kadmal. 7. Mogra. 8. Morjara. 9. Kadmal. 10. Karanjada. 11. Gadad. 12. Mogra. 13. Mahaldalban. 14. Mympada. 15. Hanvatpada. 16. N. A. 17. Kharatiamba.

Avchar

1. Taklinapada. 2. Wanziteren. 3. Chicgpada 4. Sadavihir. 5. Vanjarghodi. 6. Bilhari. 7. Vadpada. 8. Malga. 9. Wanzitembrun. 10. Taklinapada. 11. Sadbabla.

Kirli

1. Khajrna. 2. Barda. 3. Lahan-Zabder. 4. Kirly. 5. Savarpada. 6. Mohpada.

Piplaidevi

1. Piplaidevi.

ANNEXURE VIII—*concld.*

Shivbarimal

1. Pandharnapada. 2. Jarsor. 3. Pipalnapada.

Palasvihir

1. Narandevnapada.

PART III

CHAPTER III

PEOPLE

POPULATION

Growth of Population—The population of the areas now comprising the Dangs district was 18,333 in 1901. In 1961, it increased to 71,567 recording a rise of 290·37 per cent during the past sixty years. Throughout the period, there was a steady increase in population except that there was a notable decrease during the censuses of 1901 and 1921. The decrease in population recorded in the Census of 1901 was primarily due to the ravages of famine and plague during the previous decade, while that in the 1921 Census was due to a severe epidemic influenza which swept over the country in 1918. Thereafter, there was a steady increase in the population of the Dangs from 1921 onwards. The increase of 51·36 per cent of population was remarkable between the years 1951 and 1961 which was higher than that for any other district of Gujarat and much higher than the State average of 26·88 per cent and the all-India increase of 21·55 per cent. This phenomenal increase in population may be ascribed to several factors such as fertility of the Dangi people, decline in death rate, migration of the people from the adjacent areas into the Dangs, improved means of communications, establishment of a number of Government Offices and implementation of development works resulting in flow of teachers, contractors, traders and Government employees. The decennial growth of population censuswise between 1901 and 1961 for the district is given in the statement below:

STATEMENT III-1

Variation in Population During 1901-1961

Year	Population	Decade variation	Percentage decade variation
1	2	3	4
1901	18,333	..	..
1911	28,926	+ 10,593	+ 57.79
1921	24,142	— 4,784	— 16.54
1931	33,495	+ 9,353	+ 38.74
1941	40,236	+ 6,741	+ 20.13
1951	47,282	+ 7,046	+ 17.51
1961	71,567	+ 24,285	+ 51.36
1901 to 1961	..	+ 53,234	+ 290.37

Source :

District Census Handbook 1961, Dangs, p. 5.

Density—According to the 1961 Census, the area of the district in 1951 was 1,704·2 sq. kms. or 0·93 per cent of the total area of Gujarat. In 1961 it was 1,784·5 or 0·97 per cent of the total area of the State. The corresponding percentages of population for the district as constituted in 1961 are, however, found to be 0·29 in 1951 and 0·35 in 1961. Owing to spareness of population and forest areas the average density of population is 40 persons per sq. km. as against 112 for the State.

Rural Population—There are 312* villages in this district of which not a single village is uninhabited. The total population of the district is 71,567 giving an average of 229 persons per inhabited village, as against 824 in the State. The percentage distribution of rural population by size group of villages is given below :

STATEMENT III.2

Percentage Distribution of Rural Population by Size Group of Villages, 1961

Size group	No. of villages	Percentage to total No. of villages	Rural population	Percentage to total rural population
1	2	3	4	5
Less than 100	159	50.96	19,179	26.80
200-499	144	46.16	42,367	59.20
500-999	7	2.24	4,445	6.21
1,000-1,999	1	0.32	1,953	2.73
2,000-4,999	1	0.32	3,623	5.06
5,000-9,999	..	..	..	..
10,000 and above	..	..	..	..

Source :
District Census Handbook 1961, Dangs, p. 6.

The population is entirely rural. The area is covered by dense forests. Of the 312 inhabited villages, 159 or 50·96 per cent fall in the size group of population less than 100 ; 144 or 46·16 per cent in the size group of 200-499 ; 8 or 2·56 per cent in the size groups of 500-1,999 ; and only one village of population 2,000 and above. It is significant to note that the major part of rural population, i. e., 86·00 per cent is concentrated in villages having population less than 500. A small-sized village is a striking feature of the pattern of villages in the district.

* At the time of Census of 1961, there were 312 villages in the district. One village Khokharvihir was amalgamated with Harpada in 1964 with the result that there are now 311 villages.

Urban Population—No place qualifies to be treated as urban area in the district according to the definition[1] of 1961 Census.

SEX-RATIO

According to the 1961 Census, the number of females per 1,000 males was 913 which was lower than the similar ratio of 940 for the State. The proportion of males was comparatively higher owing to the presence of forest contractors and male labourers coming from outside for working in the coupes and many Government employees staying in the Dangs without their families.

BIRTH PLACE AND MIGRATION

The 1961 Census recorded that 18,863 persons, or 26·36 per cent of the population were born elsewhere within the district, 6·37 per cent outside the district but within the State and 7·92 per cent outside the State. Sex-wise distribution of migrants shows that 22·43 per cent of the male population and 30·66 per cent of the female population were born elsewhere but within the district and 7·02 per cent of the male and 8·51 per cent of the female population were born outside the district. The high percentage of female migrants is due to marriage.

STATEMENT III.3

Population by Place of Birth, 1961

Persons/Males/ Females	Total population	Born in			
		Places of enumeration	Elsewhere in the district	Outside the district but in the State	Outside the State
1	2	3	4	5	6
Persons ..	71,567	42,477	18,863	4,558	5,669
Males ..	37,418	23,635	8,394	2,628	2,761
Females ..	34,149	18,842	10,469	1,930	2,908
Percentages					
Persons ..	100.00	59.35	26.36	6.37	7.92
Males ..	100.00	63.17	22.43	7.02	7.38
Females ..	100.00	55.18	30.66	5.65	8.51

Source :

District Census Handbook 1961, Dangs, p. 7.

1. A place should be classified as urban if it is (1) a municipality, cantonment or civil lines or, (2) has (a) a population of 5,000 or over and (b) 75 per cent or more of the total male population is dependent on non-agricultural pursuits.

Marital Status

According to the 1961 Census, 31,809 persons or 44·45 per cent of the total population in the district were married, of whom 16,165 or 43·20 per cent were males and 15,644 or 45·81 per cent females. Persons who were not married accounted for 37,132 or 51·88 per cent of the total population males being 54·09 per cent and females 49·47 per cent of their respective population. The widowed persons were 2·75 per cent and the divorced or separated 0·92 per cent only. The following statement gives the percentage distribution of males and females by age and marital status.

STATEMENT III.4

Percentage Distribution of Population by Age, Sex and Marital Status

Age group		Never married		Married		Widowed, divorced or separated	
		Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
1		2	3	4	5	6	7
Total	..	**54.09**	**49.47**	**43.20**	**45.81**	**2.71**	**4.72**
0-9	..	100.00	100.00	..	..	..	—
10-14	..	98.29	91.04	1.62	8.39	0.09	0.57
15-19	..	71.83	28.78	25.55	67.65	2.62	3.57
20-24	..	25.57	2.48	70.14	95.42	4.29	2.10
25-29	..	7.72	1.02	89.22	97.26	3.06	1.72
30+	..	1.39	0.41	92.23	83.93	6.38	15.66

Source :
District Census Handbook 1961, Dangs, p. 8.

The statement given above reveals that child and infant marriages have very nearly disappeared in the district inasmuch as only 1·62 per cent males, 8·39 per cent females of the age-group 10-14 years are returned as married in 1961. Among males, the age of marriage has risen to 20 years and above, as only 25·55 per cent of males in the age-group 15-19 years were returned as married. In the case of females, the marriageable age has gone well over 15 as disclosed by the fact that in 1961, 67·65 per cent of females in the age-group 15-19 years and 95·42 per cent in the age-group of 20-24 years were married. While 15·66 per cent of females of more than 30 years were widowed, divorced or separated, the similar percentage for males was 6·38 per cent only.

LANGUAGES

According to the 1961 Census, the distribution of speakers of each major language in the district is as under :

Distribution of Speakers of Major Languages, 1961

Sl. No. 1	Major languages 2	Percentage of population 3
	Total of all languages	**100.00**
1	Gujarati	3.90
2	Marathi	9.51
3	Dangi	84.64
4	Others	1.95

It will be seen from the above table that 84·64 per cent of the population in the district have Dangi, 9·51 per cent Marathi and 3·90 per cent Gujarati as their mother-tongue. The number of speakers of other languages is insignificant. The Gujarati script is very much akin to the *devnagari* script but unlike the *devnagari* script, it is written without the line overhead, as is done by many speakers of Hindi also.

Bilingualism—The total number of persons speaking a language subsidiary to their mother-tongue were 4,571 or 6·32 per cent, who have returned between themselves as many as 7 languages as subsidiary languages. The most important among them are Gujarati (2,513), Hindi (899), Marathi (835), English (251), and Urdu (13). Dangi claims the highest number of bilingual speakers 2,913, Gujarati 2,129, Marathi 696, Hindi 81 and English 7.

LANGUAGE AND DIALECTS

The district is inhabited by two main tribes, namely, Bhils and Kunbis, with a sprinkling of a few Varlis, Mavchis and Gamits. The language of the Dangis is primitive. It has no script. Whatever literature that the Dangis have is oral. Their spoken dialects do not differ much particularly among Bhils, Kunbis and Varlis. Their affinity in the dialects is very close. Mavchis speak a dialect of Gujarati Bhili of the same kind as Chodhri. Dhodia, Gamit, Rani Bhil, etc., do.[1]

The question about the language of the Dangs territory has been studied by administrators, linguists and social scientists in the past. Among them, the following views deserve notice.

1. Grierson G.A., *Linguistic Survey of India*, Vol. IX, *Indo-Aryan Family*, Central Group, Part III, *The Bhil Languages*, (1907). p. 95.

In all the Dangs territory, Mr. Mansfield, Collector of Khandesh reported in 1854 that the religion was Hindu and the language was a mixture of Gujarati and Hindustani.[1]

The *Khandesh District Gazetteer* published in 1880 contains the following observations :

"Except among some of the wilder hill tribes, who perhaps are improperly ranked among Bhils, the Bhils have no trace of a language different from that of the country where they are settled. According to the geographical position, Bhils speak the cognate dialects of Marathi, Gujarati, Rangdi, Mevadi, Narmadi and Rajputani. They have many peculiar terms, and, with some Prakrit, use many Skythian words. There is no trace of any connexion with the tribes of South India. In Khandesh their dialect is a mixture of Hindustani, and Marathi with Gujarati endings. It varies considerably in different parts of the district and among different tribes. The language of the plain Bhils differs little except in pronunciation from the Marathi spoken by other peasantry, while the Akrani Pavras and Wetsern Bhils speak, among themselves, a dialect of Gujarati unintelligible to the plain Bhil of Central and South Khandesh."[2]

The Linguistic Survey of India compiled by G. A. Grierson, Volume-IX, Part-III and published in the year 1907 gives an elaborate treatment of dialects spoken by these tribes all under the category of Bhili considered as standard and reliable. Some of relevant observations are given below :

"The dialects in question are mostly bounded towards the north and east by the various dialects of Rajasthani, towards the south by Marathi, and towards the west by Marathi and Gujarati. Among the dialects spoken within the territory sketched above there is one, viz., Khandeshi, which has hitherto been classed as a form of Marathi. ....the so-called Bhil dialects gradually merge into the language of Khandesh, on the other that Khandeshi itself is not a Marathi dialect. Several suffixes, it is true, are identical with those used in Marathi. *But most suffixes and the inner form of the language more closely agree with Gujarati and Rajasthani.* The northern and eastern dialects connect Gujarati with Rajasthani, while, in the west, there runs a continuous line of dialects southwards towards the broken Marathi dialects of Thana."

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1. *Selections from the Records of the Bombay Government*, No. XXVI, New Series, (1856), pp. 180-184.

2. CAMPBELL J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. XII, *Khandesh*, (1880), p. 94.

The relation existing between the dialects in question and other Indo-Aryan vernacular languages can be clearly known from the following observations.

"The short *a* has, in many dialects, the broad sound of *o* in 'hot'. Thus, *pōg* and *pag*, foot. The same is the case in Rajasthani dialects and in Konkani, but usually not in those dialects where the Marathi influence is strongest. *Ĕ* takes the place of *a* in Sirohi, and also, to some extent, in Jhabua."

"The inflexion of nouns is mainly the same as in Gujarati. In the south, we find some instances of the use of the Marathi oblique form, not, however, as a regular feature. Khandeshi has developed a separate oblique form of the plural ending in *ēs* or *s*. In Ahiri, we find a similar form ending in *ē*. An *s* is very often added to the base in many dialects; thus *bā* and *bās*, a father. Similar forms are common in the Marathi dialect of the Central and Northern Konkan."

"The case suffixes are the same as in Gujarati. As in some Gujarati dialects, the ablative suffix is usually inflected in the same way as the genitive suffix. In addition to the form *thō*, etc., it also occurs as *hō*, etc., compare Rajasthani. The *n* of the suffix *nē* of the dative is often replaced by *l* especially in the south and west. It then also sometimes assumes the Marathi form *lā*."

"The personal pronoun of the first person usually forms its nominative singular as in Gujarati, thus, *hū*, I, with several slightly varying forms. We also find forms such as *mū* in the dialects which lead over to Malvi, and in the south and west the Marathi form *mī* gradually gains ascendancy."

"The present tense of the verb substantive is *chhū*, etc., in Gujarati and Eastern Rajasthani; and *hū*, etc., in Western Rajasthani. The future tense is usually formed by adding an *s*-suffix in those dialects where 'I am' is *chhū*, and an *h*-suffix where the corresponding form is *hū*. Periphrastic future forms are used besides, an inflected *lō* being added in the east, and an indeclinable *lā* in the west."

"The present tense of finite verbs is commonly formed as in Gujarati and Rajasthani by adding the verb substantive to the old present. In the west and south there is, however, a tendency to substitute the present participle for the old present, first apparently in the plural, and then, afterwards, in the whole tense. Khandeshi has remained in the intermediate stage, and has regularly forms such as *paḍas*, he falls; *poḍatas*, they fall."

"The so-called Dangi is almost identical with the current language of Khandesh."

"There is a tendency to pronounce an *a* as an *o*. Thus *bās*, a father, is pronounced as *bōs*, or rather as *bās*, with the same vowel as that occurring in English 'all', but pronounced through the nose. Similarly *paḷ*, to run, is pronounced *pål*."

"The cerebral *ṇ* is very irregularly used. Thus we find *ānā* and *āṇā* he came; *lāgaanā* and *lāgaṇā*, he began. The pronunciation is probably always that of a dental *n*."

"The inflexion of nouns and pronouns is the same as in Khandesi. Only the ablative suffix is *tīn* and not *thī* or *tī*; thus, *dur-tīn* from a distance."

"'I' is *mā* and *mī*; 'we' *amhī* and *āpan*; 'you' *tumhī*, and so on, *Ji*, which, is apparently used for all genders. *Jī wātā*, which share; *Jī kāhī* whatever. The neuter gender is, on the whole, very seldom used. We find neuter forms such as *Sagaḷa*, all, but usually the masculine, and sometimes also the feminine, is used instead. Thus, *mōṭhā pāp*, a great sin; *āsī tē-nā man-mā wanā*, such a thing entered his mind."

"The verb substantive has the same form as in Khandesi; thus, *tō sē*, he is. Sometimes, however, *āhā* or *ha* is used instead."

"The inflexion of verbs does not call for any remarks. We may only note the Marāṭhi form *jāin*, I shall go; but *mhaṇasū* I shall say, infinitives such as *mhanu-lā*, in order to say, etc."

"The vocabularly is, to some extent, different from that of Khandesi. Compare *bās*, a father *gōhō*, a man, and so on."

The late Shri P. G. Shah, who studied the tribal dialects of Gujarat in depth, was of the view that "even in the field of language and cultural consequences of linguistic affinities, the general as well as the tribal people of Gujarat show the three-fold influences of Gujarati, Rajasthani and Marathi, all of whom had in the olden times a common parentage in the Sauraseni and Maharashtri Prakrits prevalent in the region. When the *apabramshas* of these Prakrits got differentiated into Rajasthani, and Gujarati groups from Sauraseni and the Marathi group from Maharashtri, three distinct languages slowly evolved with more or less common characteristics. If a map of these tribal dialects is prepared it would show a gradation between Gujarati on the western side, Rajasthani and Hindi and

Khandeshi on the Eastern and North eastern sides, and Marathi on the extreme south."[1] The fundamental unity in Bhili groups of dialects is the result of a common source, the Indo-Aryan group.

The preceding remarks will show that the position assigned to the dialects in question is correct, and that they are in reality more closely related to Gujarati and Rajasthani than to any other Indo-Aryan regional language. The same result may be derived from a comparison of the vocabulary. We are not, however, able to make any statement in this respect regarding Khandeshi. As to the Bhili dialects, the Rev. Ch. Thompson has calculated that about 84 per cent of the words found in the Bhili dialect of Mahikantha may be derived from Sanskrit and correspond to words used in Gujarati. About 10 per cent are of the Persian descent, and the remaining 6 per cent cannot as yet be traced.

The Dangs had relations with Surat, and Gaikwad territories on account of communications, timber trade and social relations. It is on record that since 1902 when the administration of the Dangs was transferred from the Khandesh Political Agency to the Surat Political Agency, the staff of the Forest Department was drafted from Gujarat. The official language of the Dangs was Gujarati. Till 1946, there was no problem of language in the Dangs. But after 1946, when the transfer of political power was in the offing and the question of merger of States was in the air, agitation was started to show that the language of the Dangs State was Marathi and not Gujarati.

With the merger of the Dangs State in Bombay in January, 1948 and constitution of a separate district, the agitation gathered momentum. Marathi Schools were opened where there were Gujarati Schools. Articles were written in Marathi and English papers on this question. The Bombay Government could not decide the language issue and, therefore, appointed one committee consisting of 3 members of Gujarat and 3 members of Maharashtra to decide the language question. Predictably, this committee could not come to any decision. For this purpose, on 2nd and 3rd May, 1949, Shri B. G. Kher, Chief Minister, Shri Morarji Desai, Revenue and Home Minister and Shri M. D. Bhatt, Chief Secretary of the Bombay Government visited the district to decide the question. They went to Ahwa and met the Dangis at some places. Thereafter, from the questions asked and answers given, and the clothes and the nature of *saris* put on by the Dangi women, they came to the conclusion that the language of the Dangs was Marathi. Subsequently, on the 26th May, 1949, it was notified[2] that the official language of the Dangs district should be Marathi. This

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1. SHAH P. G., *Tribal Life in Gujarat*, p. 247.

2. Government of Bombay's Resolution (Political and Services Department) No. 2626/46-B, dated 26th May, 1949.

decision was hotly questioned and vehemently opposed in Gujarat. The protest came from the Gujarat Boundary Commission, the Maha Gujarat Parishad, the Gujarat Congress Prantik Samiti, the Gujarat Vepari Mandal, the Gujarat Research Society, the linguists like Prof. T. N. Dave and Prof. Vishnuprasad Trivedi and leaders like Sir Purushotamdas Thakurdas. All these individuals and institutions quoted Prof. Grierson's view that the language of the Dangs was Ahirani which was primarily a mixture of Gujarati, Rajasthani and Marathi with predominance of Gujarati. In the fourteenth volume of Marathi Gyankosh, Dr. S. V. Ketkar of Poona has mentioned that the Dangis speak a mixture of Gujarati, Hindustani and Marathi.

In a nutshell, the language of the Dangis is influenced by several factors mentioned below :

(1) Historically, the Dangs formed part of Baglan and Khandesh for centuries under the political suzerainty of Gujarat's rulers-Rajputs, Muslims, Mughals and Marathas—with the result that it had more social, economic and political relations with Gujarat than those with Maharashtra.

(2) Geographically, Khandesh and Nasik are separated by the spurs of the Satpura and Sahyadri mountains and are on a high plateau and rivers flow towards the west in Gujarat. The communications were with Surat and the Baroda district of Navsari. There was no all-weather road connecting the Nasik district and this was the main administrative reason why the Dangs State was placed under the Collector of Surat as Political Agent, Dangs, by transferring the charge from the Collector and Political Agent, Khandesh in 1903.

(3) Economically, the timber of the Dangs found a ready market in the Surat district through the contractors and traders of Surat. It is on record that even when the Dangs district was under the Political Agent, Khandesh, the auctions of timber were held at Surat, from where the Timber Agent of the East India Company purchased timber for the naval shipyard at Bombay.

(4) It is not proper to adopt the language as the sole criterion for deciding the political boundaries of a district.

To sum up, for all practical purposes, there was no problem about the language of the Dangs till 1946. The people spoke the Dangi language which was influenced by the Gujarati language spoken in the eastern, northern and western areas. It was, however, in the southern areas adjacent to the Nasik district that the Marathi influence was felt. This is natural in all the border areas where the people speak a mixture of languages. The Dangi dialect has developed mostly by its contacts with the Parsi, Hindu

and Muslim timber merchants and contractors from the Surat, Bulsar, Bansda, Navsari and Songadh areas of Gujarat. The contacts on the eastern and southern sides could not be established due to lack of communications. The official language of the territory has, however, varied according to the exigencies of administration.

SCHEDULED CASTES

The population of the Scheduled Castes is not significant. According to the 1961 Census it was 261, (140 males and 121 females) or 0·36 per cent of the total population. Details of the castes are given below.

STATEMENT III-5

Percentage Distribution of Scheduled Castes Population, 1961

Scheduled Castes	Total Rural	Males	Females	Percentage to total population of the district
1	2	3	4	5
Total	**261**	**140**	**121**	**0.36**
Bhambi, Bhambhi, Asadaru, Asodi, Chamadia, Chamar, Chambhar, Chamgar, Haralayya, Harali, Khalpa, Machigar, Mochigar, Madar, Madig, Telegu Mochi, Kamati Mochi, Ranigar Rohidas, Rohit or Samgar	29	22	7	0.04
Bhangi, Mehtar, Olgana, Rukhi, Maikana, Halalkhor, Lalbegi, Balmiki, Korar or Zadmalli	98	54	44	0.13
Mahar, Taral or Dhegu Megu	20	8	12	0.03
Mahyavanshi, Dhed, Vankar or Maru Vankar	7	3	4	0.01
Mang, Mateng or Minimadig	107	53	54	0.15

Source :
District Census Handbook 1961, Dangs, p. 16.

SCHEDULED TRIBES

The district is entirely tribal. According to the 1961 Census, the Scheduled Tribes claim 66,233 or 92·55 per cent of the total population of the district and 2·40 per cent of the Scheduled Tribes in the State. The main Scheduled Tribes in the district are Kunbis (24,004), Bhils (23,701), Varlis (9,664), Koknas/Koknis/Kuknas (4,572), and Gamits/Gamtas/Gavits including Mavchis, Padvis, Vasavas, Vasaves and Valvis (2,674). Details of the tribes are given below.

STATEMENT III-6

Percentage Distribution of Scheduled Tribes Population, 1961

Scheduled Tribes	Total Rural	Males	Females	Percentage to total population of the district
1	2	3	4	5
Total	**66,233**	**34,362**	**31,871**	**92.55**
Bhil, including Bhil Garasia, Dholi Bhil, Dungri Bhil, Dungri Garasia, Mewasi Bhil, Rawal Bhil, Tadvi Bhil, Bhagalia Bhilala, Pawra, Vasava and Vasave	23,701	12,208	11,493	33.12
Chodhara	145	108	37	0.20
Dhodia	583	389	194	0.81
Dubla, including Talavia or Halpati	134	83	51	0.19
Gamit or Gamta or Gavit, including Mavchi, Padvi, Vasava, Vasave and Valvi	2,674	1,449	1,225	3.74
Kathodi or Katkari, including Dhor Kathodi or Dhor Katkari and Son Kathodi or Son Katkari	285	140	145	0.40
Kokna, Kokni, Kukna ..	4,572	2,388	2,184	6.39
Koli, Dhor, Tokre Koli, Kolcha or Kolgha	20	12	8	0.03
Naikda or Nayaka, including Cholivala Nayaka, Kapadia Nayaka, Mota Nayaka and Nana Nayaka	117	64	53	0.16
Pardhi, including Advichincher and Phanse Pardhi ..	19	8	11	0.03
Patelia	1	1	..	N
Varli	9,664	5,001	4,663	13.50
Vitolia, Kotwalia or Barodia ..	314	161	153	0.44
Kunbi	24,004	12,350	11,654	33.54

N = Negligible

Source :

District Census Handbook 1961, Dangs, p. 10.

Bhils—Since pre-historic times, Bhil aborigines have inhabited the Dangs. They were the ruling class of the land, while Kunbis, Koknas, Varlis and Mavchis were their ryots. Prior to Independence, the Bhil Rajas wielded

much power. It was Koknas who introduced permanent cultivation into the hills. The village Gadhvi was the seat of a Bhil chieftain, who exercised jurisdiction over eighty villages and operated on a feudal basis by delegating his authority to inferior chiefs known as *naiks*. The relations between the Bhils and other migrant tribes were those of the ruler and the ruled. Many a time, the Bhil Raja and his archers took possession of crops and cattle, demanded supplies of food from the Koknas and on occasions, even abducted their girls. Thus, there was a remarkable co-existence of a politically dominant but materially backward ruling tribe (Bhils), and a subject but economically progressive peasantry (Kunbis).[1] Though the tribes of Kunbis, Varlis and Bhils are distinct, they adhere to a regional culture which our present state of knowledge cannot associate with any ethnic group. The common cultural pattern found in their annual festivals celebrated with similar ritualistic observations is seen in their erecting a memorial stone to their deceased kinsmen. The tribal people belonging to whatever tribe, either Bhil, Kunbi or Varli are called Dangis. That these people are the descendants of Anaryas residing here since the time of the Ramayana receives some corroboration from the fact that their names are generally, Ramu, Laxmu, Dasaru, Situ, Janki, Jhunki, etc. The name of the village Subir seems to have some connection with Shabari, the old Bhil woman of the Ramayana.[2]

Detailed information about the Bhils of the Dangs is not available; but the same is available about the Bhils of Khandesh from the *District Gazetteer of Khandesh* (Vol. XII. 1880). Since Khandesh and the Dangs are adjacent areas, much of the description of the Khandesh Bhils might apply to those of the Dangs.

According to the *Khandesh Gazetteer* (1880), the Bhils are the chief of the large group of tribes that at one time held most of the country now distributed among the provinces of Mewar, Malwa, Khandesh and Gujarat.[3]

1. NAIK T. B., *The Bhils* (*A Study*), 1956. (Foreword by C. Von. Furer-Haimendorf), p. xii.
2. Census of India 1961, Vol. V, Gujarat, Part VI. No. 7, *Village Survey Monograph, Ghadvi*, pp. 6-7.
3. The earliest people of Mewar were Bhils (Tod's Rajasthan, I. 186): the Bhils are specially strong in the south of Malwa (Hamilton's Description of Hindustan, I.729). In Gujarat according to local legend, the Bhils held Abu, Dholka, and Champaner. As late as the close of the eleventh century Asaval, the site of the modern Ahmedabad, was in Bhil hands, and it was only when forced south by the Musalmans (1000 1400) that the Rajputs drove the Bhils out of Idar, Rajpipla, Mandvi, Bansda, and Dharampur. In many Rajputana, Malwa and Gujarat states, when a Rajput chief succeeds, his brow is marked by blood taken from the thumb or the toe of a Bhil. The Rajputs say that this blood mark is a sign of Bhil allegiance: but it seems to be a relic of Bhil power. The Bhils are always keen to keep the practice alive. The right of giving the blood is claimed by certain families and the belief that the man from whose veins it flows dies within a year fails to damp their zeal for the usage. The Rajputs, on the other hand, would gladly let the practice die. This they say is due to their shrinking from impure Bhil blood. But the true ground of this dislike is that the ceremony reminds them of the shortness of their rule and of the need of sanction by their lowest subjects. Trans. Roy. As. Soc. I. 69.

"Bhils are rarely met except in the retinues of the chiefs. They are ugly and stunted, very black, wild, and almost naked. Living like the Kunbis in cone-shaped huts made of tree boughs, they burn them on the slightest mishap, and seldom stay in one place for more than a fortnight. They feed on all sorts of vermin and garbage, eating, without scruple, rats, monkeys, crows, and even cows. Though nominally Hindus, they know very little of the Brahman religion, and, unless he is a beggar, hold a Brahman in no particular respect. *Hanuman*, the monkey-god, is occasionally seen in their villages. But their chief objects of worship are the boundary god Simaria Dev, the snake god, and the tiger god, Wagh Dev, in whom they say the souls of their ancestors become incarnate. They believe in omens and greatly dread the power of witches and of the evil eye. Though hopelessly ignorant, lazy, and drunken, they are honest and grateful. Considering themselves members of the chief's family, they hold all labour, except field work, a degradation. They neither work as wood-cutters nor pilfer wood. But during the rains, they meet near Kunbi villages and hire themselves as field labourers receiving payment in grain. Polygamy, though allowed, is practised by the chiefs only, some of whom have a dozen wives. *They speak a mixture of Gujarati, Hindustani, and Marathi, of which Gujarati is the chief element.*[1] Except that they are more industrious, making bamboo baskets and mats, the Varlis are much the same as the Bhils."

Kunbis—According to the *Khandesh Gazetteer*,[2] "Kunbis are ugly, weak, and miserable looking, with stringy limbs and pot-bellies; wearing very little clothing except near the larger plain villages. Every man carries a sickle-shaped knife fastened to a string tied round his waist. Their cone-shaped huts have wattled walls and roofs thatched with bundles of hay. They supplement the scanty crops of coarse rice and *nagli* by fruit and the produce of their bows and arrows. They are excessively fond of *moha* spirits, and from their scanty food and dirty intemperate habits, are very subject to lung and chest complaints and skin diseases. As a rule, they are extremely shy and timid but civil and obliging. They are only half settled. A death, an outbreak of cattle disease, or the reputed working of a witch, is enough to drive them from their huts."

The Kunbis and Bhils[3] are less fair in appearance than Varlis. Women do not apply oil to their hair for months together with the result that their

1. Italics are ours.

2. CAMPBELL J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. XII, *Khandesh*, (1880), pp. 600-601.

3. Census of India 1961, Vol. V, Gujarat, Part VI, No. 7, *Village Survey Monograph, Ghadvi*, p. 7.

hair assumes an appearance of a nest. They dress and comb it only on marriage and festive occasions. These people usually lead a settled life and wandering habits are almost extinct among them. Some shift often from one village to another on account of oppression of money-lenders and usurious tradesmen.

The Kunbis, though inferior to the Bhils in the social hierarchy, are economically better off because of their stable and progressive farming practices. However, they consider themselves higher than other tribes like Varlis, Mavchis, etc. They are progressive and have adopted new tools and techniques of agriculture under the impact of the Community Development Programme. They attend marriages of Bhils, but do not dine with them. They even do not drink the water from the Bhil's place. This sounds strange when both do cultivation and forest labour together. The Bhils and the Varlis go to the Kunbis' place as agricultural labourers.

Varlis[1]—The Varlis are said to have been inhabiting the region since prehistorical times. According to Dr. Wilson, 'Varlis' mean uplanders, the name given in olden times to denote the residents of Varalat, the sixth of the seven Konkans.[2] The northern part of the Konkan was called 'Varalat' because Varlis originally lived there. However, Varal according to Dr. Wilson means a tilled patch of land. The people who cultivated these patches are, therefore, called Varalis or Varlis. Mr. Rajwade thinks that Varlis have been mentioned as a non-Aryan tribe by Katyayan in his *Vartikas* under the name Varud. He derives the word Varli from the word Varud as mentioned in Katyayan's *Vartikas* thus, Varud-Varudaki-Varulai, Varuli and finally Varali. Though the derivation seems somewhat far-fetched, it may be reasonably accepted that the tribe is of non-Aryan origin and lived in the country near the Vindhyas and the Satpuras from which it came southwards. Some of them took shelter in the Satpura hills, where we still find them. Some probably descended to the hilly forests of Dharampur and Bansda. Their language seems to be greatly influenced by Gujarati. Many Varlis claim that their original home is in Ramnagar (Dharampur) or Nagar Haveli in the Daman territory. The southerners seem to have been more assimilated with tirbes like Kolis and Kunbis, who have imbibed lower Maratha practices in regard to marriage, religion, language, etc.

Enthoven is of the opinion that Varlis are a sub-division of Bhils, since they have many traits in common with them. That in culture, language and custom, Varlis were congeners of Bhils is further supported by Latham.

1. Census of India 1961, Vol. V, Gujarat, Part VI. No. 7, *Village Survey Monograph, Ghadvi*, pp. 7-8.

2. Save K. J., *The Varlis*, 1945, p. 5.

The Bhils, the Varlis, the Kolis and other allied Scheduled Tribes of Gujarat and those on the western side of Bengal are believed to be of the same blood. Scholars have not come to any conclusion regarding the origin of this tribe. Other sources regarding their origin bear no historical importance. According to one source, the name of Varlis has been derived from Varla-brush wood. This means that the tribesmen, conscious of their occupation, associate their tribe's name with their profession. The Varlis think themselves to be the humble and last creation of God. Thereafter the troubles of God were over. Marathi word *varli* means 'over'. Thus there is a pun on the word *varli*. Varlis have a scanty growth of hair all over the body, especially on chest. Similarly they have no hair on legs which may probably be due to constant work. Varlis are not found with head clean shaven, as they believe that without a tuft of hair, there is no beauty. They are lean and emaciated and lack vitality particularly because of malnutrition and addiction to drinks. However, they have wonderful stamina and, if determined, can put up any amount of hard work.

Mavchis—There is another tribal community called Mavchi. Mavchis differ from Bhils, Kunbis and Varlis in appearance, ways of living, dress and dialect. They are mainly found in the northern border villages of Dangs, namely, Singana, Nishana, Kakshala, Kesbandh, Jamla, Biliyamba, Jamal-Sonda, Behedun-Sawarpada, Gavan, Amthawa, Bardipada, Sajupada, etc. Although they live in this area for generations, they consider their original home at Dharampur, Bansda, Vyara and Songadh. By temperament, they are very humble, simple, honest and law-abiding. They are, however, ignorant and superstitious.

A bridegroom has often to serve his father-in-law for a term of years. Five years is the usual period but credit is often given and the girl is allowed to live with her husband before the full term is over. Among the Mavchis, the marriage tie is loose and the woman may leave her husband and marry another for trivial reasons. In that case, the tribe *panch* awards compensation; but cases are not rare, when a husband does not think worth-while to apply to the *panch* and comforts himself with another wife. In such cases, infants generally go with their mother and grown-up children remain with their father. They bury their dead and often bury the deceased person's property in the grave with him.

Religion

The district has a predominant Hindu population. The 1961 Census shows that as many as 69,948 persons or 97·74 per cent of the total population of the district were Hindus, Muslims numbered 778 (1·09 per cent), Jains 24 (0·03 per cent), Christians 654 (0·91 per cent), and Sikhs 57 (0·08 per cent). Among others 62 were Buddhists and 44 followed other religions and persuasions.

The following is the distribution of the population under various religions by sex.

STATEMENT III-7

Distribution of Population by Religion

Religion	Males	Females
Hindus	36,540	33,408
Muslims	438	340
Christians	324	330
Sikhs	35	22
Jains	14	10
Buddhists	43	19
Other religions and persuasions	24	20

Source :
District Census Handbook 1961, Dangs, p. 42.

Religious Belief—The religion of the Dangis has association with animism, but it is not the whole truth. The Dangis do not merely worship local gods, ghosts and spirits but they have many gods and beliefs in common with enlightened Hindus.

The gods and goddesses of the Dangis are many and varied. They are the creation of local circumstances. The animals, plants, trees and places, which are useful or fearful, the forces of nature like rain, mountain, and the inscrutable are held in high esteem, looked upon with awe and are worshipped. Belief in magic and witch-craft is universal. In the *Bombay Gazetteer* (Vol. XIII), it is observed that " though nominally Hindus, they know very little of the Brahman religion. Hanuman, the monkey god is occasionally seen in their villages. But their chief objects of worship are the boundary god ' Simaria Dev '. the snake god. and the tiger god in whom they see the souls of their ancestors become incarnate. They believe in omens and greatly dread witches and the evil eye..... ...They are believed mostly to die of spirit possession, as the saying is that Brahmins die of indigestion, Sonars from bile and Kunbis from spirit "

' Dev ' is the general term used for all gods ' Bhagwan ', ' Ishar ' (Ishwar), Uparwala (one who stays above) are the words used to address the God. The Dangis believe that ' Bhagwan ' is omnipresent, omniscient and omnipotent. He is a judge of our actions and punishes us for our bad deeds.

Characteristics of the Deities—A characteristic of the tribal deities is that they are natural objects made of stones and wood which a tribal devotee can see and touch and before whose physical presence, he can

lay his offerings. The sanctity of these pieces of wood and stone is not in their shape, size or appearance, but in the supernatural force or power contained in them which is called the 'Sat'. To an outsider, all gods and goddesses look the same shapeless pieces of stones or carved posts or wood daubed with red lead. One has to be told which deity is symbolised by a particular stone or wooden image. The same piece of stone is used sometimes as Mata and sometimes as Dev.

Deities of Corn: Kanasari Devi—Kanasari is a goddess of corn. The name Kanasari is derived from the Sanskrit term, 'Kana' or corn. Any stone lying in the field is installed as Kanasari Devi and worshipped before the harvest season. The ceremony is simple. A handful of corn is placed before the image of the goddess as an offering and a chicken is also often sacrificed. The offering is expected to secure bumper crops. In a newly built house, first this goddess is ceremoniously established and then the house is used for residence. The Dangis swear by the name of Kanasari Mata. It is said that if Kanasari Mata is propitiated, foodgrains do not get damaged by pests.

Kotharin Devi—Before a new house is occupied, people worship Kanasari Mata, who is said to be the protector of foodgrains. The god installed in the storeroom is called Kotharin Devi. Kotharin is a goddess of Kothar (store-house) She looks after and protects the storage of corn in the house.

God of Rains—The god of rains is called 'Pan Dev' and that of wind is called 'Bhutiya Dev'. Pan Dev is worshipped sometime after a few showers of rain, and the seeds have germinated. If the rain is delayed or there is scarcity of rains, people in the western Dangs go to the hill of Kuwathia, enter one of the caves and worship there. It is believed that as soon as the prayers are over, a sudden flow of water gushes forth from within and whether the ensuing year will have good rains or not will be judged from the volume of water.

Bhutiya Dev is a deity of wind and cyclone. Sometimes the wind causes great damage by blowing away roofs and uprooting trees. It also causes fire in the forest. Hence, the Bhutiya Dev is feared and worshipped.

Deities of the Hill—The Dungar Dev, the god of the mountain, resides on the peak. Not all mountains and hills are abodes of the Dungar Dev, but only a few chosen hills are thought to be the abode of this god. The Dungar Dev is said to grant relief against all troubles and miseries. A vow is taken when some member of the family is sick and cocoanuts, fowls and goats are offered to the god. The shrine of the Dungar Dev has a circular stone wall or a fortress with a gate for entrance. Dungar Dev is supposed to be a source of power to the *bhuvas* and *bhagats*.

Deities of the Village—Gam Dev, Simalya (Simaria) Dev, and Mavlima are the deities which preside over the village.

A human form carved out on a wooden block or stone is worshipped as Gam Dev. He is believed to be the protector of the village. People offer fowls and coconuts to this god amidst great rejoicing and dancing. This god is believed to look after the people of the village and protects them against the natural calamities. This god is installed outside the village and enshrined under a tree.

Sim means outskirt of the village. Simaria Dev is the god which guards the village land and boundaries.

Mavlima means mother goddess. Her favours are solicited on all occasions in life and utmost care is taken that she is not displeased. Any unforeseen calamity or accident like untimely death, epidemic or failure of crops is first attributed to the wrath of this goddess. Vows are taken when the disease is incurable or the woman has difficulty during delivery. Once in a year, the whole village collectively worships and offers sacrifices to her.

Animistic Beliefs Among the animals, the tiger and the cow are worshipped. The tiger is called 'Wagh Dev'. Besides, serpent and moon are also worshipped. On the outskirts of every village is found a wooden plank of five to six feet in height on which the images of the tiger, serpent and the moon have been carved. All the narrow passes and the places which the tiger seems to visit are believed to be the abodes of the Wagh Dev. The tiger is more feared than loved. This god is worshipped so that the tiger may not kill cattle or men. They believe that Wagh Dev protects them against tiger, leopard, panther and other wild animals.

Tiger god is held in reverence, yet a tiger is killed. This attitude is similar to the primitive concept of god.

Nag Dev, serpent god is worshipped with much awe and reverence especially on the Nagpanchami day, the fifth day in the first fortnight of Shravan. Wooden posts bearing the reliefs of serpent are besmeared with red lead.

Among other goddesses are Ihmai and Dehar Mata. Ihmai is said to have abode in the houses and huts. But the Dangis believe that this goddess dwells in the houses of a few fortunate persons only. She is said to be the goddess of animals and live-stock and protects them from becoming the prey of epidemic. This goddess is wrapped up in a cloth and put up in the middle of a barn or a cattle-shed.

Hanuman Dev—Hanuman, the ape god, devotee of Ram is worshipped all over India and among all types of tribals, and so also in the Dangs. In the Dangs, the image of Hanuman is carved from the trunk of the tree and worshipped by the Dangis. In Pipaldahad, there is a small temple of Hanuman.

Hindu Deities—Some of the Hindu deities like Ram, Sita, Mahadev, Parvati, etc., are honoured and worshipped by the Dangis. These deities are referred to in their folk tales and songs. One such song is as follows.

"A hut was built, the floor plastered with cow-dung;
Decorated it was, with *nagarvel* leaves;
Slept Sita in it, her two children too.
Went out Sita to the pond, to fetch water;
Ravan took away Sita, a fight took place on the narrow pass;
Ram, Laxman brought back Sita."

Though this song is not true to the traditional facts, it reflects local atmosphere and gives local colour to the story.

The Sun and the Moon are referred as Suraj Dev and Chandra Dev. These gods are benign and benevolent.

The gods of the Dangis can be broadly classified in two classes : (1) benevolent gods, who are the protectors of people, livestock, land and the village, (2) malefic gods, who are spirits and cast an evil eye on the people and animals. They do protect the people, but if they are displeased, they take revenge on the people. Such gods are Kala Savar, Tumba Savar, Bhunga Savar, Masania and Bhisiya. They are forms of Dungar Dev. The hills which are supposed by the Dangis to be the abode of the Dungar Dev are as follows :

(1) Nalgyo dungar near Dhavlidod,

(2) Sindwad and Palghatia hills near Nakatia Hanwat,

(3) Kawadia hill near Maheskatri,

(4) Bilia hill near Waghai,

(5) Salher hill near Chinchli,

(6) Surkhai hill near Ahwa,

(7) Lalkhai hill near Wasurna and

(8) Atala hill near Morzia.

Ghosts and Spirits—The Dangis believe in the existence of ghosts, spirits and witches. "We are not much afraid of ghost", say the Dangis, "as of witches, for the ghost is the spirit of the dead one, while the witch is a living woman amongst us."

The people believe that a person, whose desire remained unsatisfied and who seriously craved for it, becomes a ghost after his death. The ghost enters the body of animals like a dog or a tiger and haunts persons and places. It harasses those with whom he had a dispute in its lifetime. The ghost remains invisible. It makes peculiar noises and cries. There is something inhuman and cruel in its laughter. A ghost also appears before the cattle, unties them, and sets them free. It is believed that even the god has no control over the ghosts. The ghosts often wander round the cremation grounds. Hence no Dangi will pass by such places after evening.

These people also believe that the spirit of the dead has a tendency to visit his former house. Hence they vacate the house and settle elsewhere, if a death has occurred inside the house. The Raja of Gadhvi left his newly built house, because his son expired in the house Because of his *vidya* or sorcery, a Bhagat or a Bhuva can identify the person who has become a ghost and drive him out and make the ghost free from its mundane bondage through some rites.

Witch and Witch-craft—It is a characteristic feature of the tribal mind that its sense of fear of witches and ghosts is the deepest as compared with other people. When anybody in the family falls sick, it is suspected that he is attacked by the evil spirit. The sudden death of several animals at a time is also considered to be caused by a witch. On such occasions, the village priest (Bhagat, Bhuva or Badva) comes to the rescue. He gets possessed, find out from where the ghost or the witch has come and how it could be got rid of. A vow (Badha) is taken and fowl is offered to the ghost. Sometimes he declares that such and such a woman is the witch (Dakan) and is responsible for the death. In the past, if she could be apprehended, the popular superstition became so strong that she would often be tied to a tree upside down and fire lighted below her. Cases of a witch being beaten to death were also often reported in the newspapers. As a result, Government was constrained to put restrictions on the Bhagatai.[1]

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1. An extract about the Administrative Rule prohibiting Bhagatai in the Dangs is reproduced from the Dangs Political Standing Order file of Deputy Political Agent (1st May, 1940):

"No. 25–Bhagats–Any person who receives or demands from anyone in Dangs money or goods for performing any divinations is a rogue and a swindler and will be sentenced to be expelled from the Dangs or to imprisonment for cheating. There is no such thing as witchcraft and anyone who beats or hurts any woman or causes others to do so by saying she is a witch is liable to be expelled from the Dangs."

A witch is a female sorcerer. There are no apparent signs to identify a woman who has turned a witch. All the witches of the village form a secret association and select one of them as their leader. As a witch, one has to forgo all personal relations and obey the order of the leader. After completion of the training, a witch has to pay fees in the form of a human life. So the witch selects a victim and makes it fall sick by her powers. Outwardly, the victim meets a natural death.

A witch can take many forms, that of a jackal, a cat or a fly. She possesses extraordinary and super-human powers.

Sometimes even for personal gain also, magic is practised by a witch. If a witch is in love with some man, she plays tricks on him to bring him into her clutches.

Male Sorceries—Male sorcery has no destructive purpose behind it. These are two forms of this magic, one is eating charcoal and throwing them on one's own body. The second is finding out a coin hidden in the earth.

The trainee of this *vidya* starts his training from the beginning of monsoon and continues upto Diwali. The trainee goes to the place of Dungar Dev and learns the *vidya* from his preceptor. While under training, he has to observe fasts on Tuesdays and Sundays and strict abstinence avoiding even a touch of a woman. On the night of Kali Chaudash, the fourteenth day of the second half of Ashwin, he performs the final rites, offers a fowl to his god and drinks its blood as *prasad*.

The tribals believe that while working in the forest or in the dark, if one sees a ghost or *dakan*, one should take lump of earth in two fists and stand within a marked circle. Then the ghost or *dakan* will not be able to come within the circle and to do him any harm.

The witches are supposed to have a special craft and a special technique which requires to be renewed every year on the darkest day in the year—Kali Chaudash, the day before the Diwali. They all collect in the local cremation ground and repeat the sacred magic *mantras* jointly or separately for a renewal of their strength and efficacy.

Omens, good and bad—The Dangis believe that the children are easily susceptible to the evil eye of others. So they put dots of black suit on the ears and forehead of the child. They consider certain signs as good and certain others as bad. While going to the other village if a man comes across an empty cart or a broken cart on the way, he shall come back. An individual carrying a bundle of fire-wood or an empty vessel on the head are bad omens. If a serpent or a rabbit crosses his way, the Dangi becomes

doubtful about the success of his mission. The cries of an owl and *chibri* are considered inauspicious. The wood-pecker is the most inauspicious bird. The tiger and the cow are considered good signs. If *morga* bird is heard in the afternoon or midnight, it is believed to be a sign of fortune.

The Bhagat—The Bhagat is the greatest foe of the witches. Before his *vidya* and powers, the tricks of witches become futile. The Bhagat can undo what the witches have done.

He is an important man in the socio-religious activities of the Dangis. He is a medico-religious man. Because of his manifold functions, he enjoys a good reputation and status among the Dangis.

A woman cannot become a Bhagat. There are two cadres of 'Bhagat', a junior Bhagat and a senior Bhagat. A senior Bhagat possesses more power and is called a 'Kagdi Bhagat', one who had *vidya* to read through a white paper. The junior Bhagat cannot make use of the paper.

Only a Bhagat can coach a Bhagat. The training is given only in the month of Shravan. The individual under training has to observe fast during the days of training. A woman's touch and a shadow of a woman in menstruation are a taboo. On the fifth day, he worships the deity and recites the *mantras*.

Manners and Customs

Important customs observed by all the Dangi people centre round birth, marriage and death.

Birth—The Bhils know of the physiological origin of paternity. They also know that the child gets its nourishment from the mother through the navel cord. No prenatal rites are observed by them. But by the fifth month, parents start observing various prenatal precautions which have to be followed if the child is to be born normal and well-formed. Both the parents are considered equally capable of influencing the child within the womb, but in point of fact, a large number of precautions are taken by the man rather than by the woman, because he is concerned with outside world.

The important prenatal precautionary taboos are that the father should not cut anything growing; that the mother should not eat anything joint like a double banana or some double tubers; that neither parent should eat any animal which has met its death in an accident and that neither should stick a pole into the ground or tie a knot or drive a nail. All these are believed to prevent proper delivery. There are a great number of other taboos similar to these listed here. The second half of pregnancy is a period of constant watchfulness for both the parents.

An expectant mother usually continues to work in the house and on the field. The delivery generally takes place at her husband's place. Any place is selected for confinement excepting a kitchen and an open verandah. Generally, a Dangi woman proficient in this work performs the function of a midwife. Elderly women of the family supervise delivery and remain present at the time of a child-birth.

As the time for delivery approaches, the females gather together and the males clear off. This is done as a matter of decency and good manners (they call this *abru dakho*). The professional midwife knows where to rub or how to place the mother in position ; and other women help in holding her belly, *pet pakadavun*. As soon as the child is born, she cuts the umbilical cord with a bamboo chip and the part attached to the baby's body is tied up. The baby is then washed in lukewarm water, wrapped in a cloth and put to breast. The umbilical cord is taken in a basket outside the house, where it is buried in a pit and nobody is allowed to look at it. As soon as the afterbirth has appeared, it is kept in a bamboo container which is carefully covered with a cloth. The nurse takes it behind the house, digs a pit, puts some *juwar* grains in it and then buries the container there. The place where the afterbirths are buried is considered important by the Bhils. They like to live at this place and even if they leave the place by force of circumstances, they try to return to the place ; 'it calls us', they say.

In complex cases, an experienced midwife of the tribe or a *bhuva* is resorted to for spelling grains or string for warding off any calamity. Of late, they consult doctors in such cases.

The new-born is bathed with water. The birth of a boy or girl is received with equal rejoicings without any reservation. A girl is not considered a burden upon the family. However, since a son shoulders all the responsibilities of the father, when he grows up, the birth of a boy is more welcome than that of a girl. These feelings are not expressed overtly by their deeds or rites. On the fifth day of the birth of a boy and on the third day in case of a girl, a ceremony called *panchuro* is celebrated, in which the midwife applies red lead on a stone and recites names of different gods. Small heaps of rice are made out of 1 to 1½ *kutcha seers* on the winnowing basket. A child is given a name according to the name of the day on which it is born. Generally, parents, midwife and other relatives give the name. No presents or gifts are given or exchanged on the occasion.

Marriage—When a Dangi boy grows out of his boyhood and attains the age of fourteen or fifteen, his parents are anxious that their son should get married and have a good wife. Generally, difference of 2 to 3 years is considered necessary between the ages of the boy and the girl to be engaged. Prior to Independence, child marriages were common among

them. Dangis have to look to several social restrictions on the choice of partners. The tribes in the Dangs are endogamous social units. Each unit is composed of numerous exogamous groups called clans. A clan is a paternal group, known as 'Kula' or 'Jat' by Dangis. The marriage in one's own clan is prohibited. The tribe is dichotomised into *haga* and *hagwadia* groups. *Hagwadias* are in-laws or *vewais*. *Hagas* being members of the same clan or family unit are ineligible for marital alliance. Clan exogamy naturally prohibits marriage in one's own paternal family. That kind of marriage will be incestuous. Even a thought of that is forbidden and it is believed that if there is some sex relation between two members of a paternal family, it will bring supernatural wrath on the whole society.

Besides the exogamous restrictions, they have also certain endogamous restrictions. Like the Hindus, they do not marry outside their own tribe. A Bhil boy cannot marry a Gori, a Kotwal, a Mavchi, or a Tadvi girl, or a girl from any other tribe. If he does, he is at once ex-communicated from his own tribe and he will be taken back only, on payment of a fine to his caste *panch*.

For the purpose of marriage, certain individual qualities are socially preferred. An obedient, industrious, thrifty and unindebted boy is considered a good candidate for marriage. While for a girl, beauty, obedience, quality of shyness, industriousness and efficiency in household duties, are points to be noted for selection as bride. In short, in selecting a partner, beauty, complexion, money and the status of the family are the main requisites.

Marriages are settled according to the wishes of parents. The search for an acceptable bride is carried through some relatives. Sense of the partners is also taken. Similarly good boys and girls do not go against the expressed wishes of their elders. There are cases of love marriages, marriages by abduction, capture, exchange, intrusion, trial and purchase. But except love marriage, occurrences of the other forms of marriage are rare. However, the cases of marriage by capture or elopement receive sanction after the couple begins to cohabit. Sometimes, a girl forces a boy to marry her which in local parlance is called *uthi ani*.

Marriage by capture does receive sanction by the community though at a later date. But in such cases the boy has to pay twice or thrice the bride price. Consanguineous marriages are not totally banned but certain types of such marriages are permitted. The children of a brother and a sister, particularly the son of a sister and a daughter of a brother can intermarry, but children of two brothers or of two sisters cannot intermarry.

Engagement—Before actual marriage takes place, there are very interesting stages which can be termed as engagement but widely differ

from engagement as we understand. The stages are called 'Bol pen', 'Moti pen' and marriage.

The marriage proposal generally comes from the boy's side and if both the parties agree, engagement locally called *pen* is fixed without undergoing any rite or ceremony. When the engagement is settled, the boy's father pays to the girl's father Rs. 55 and returns to the village and declares that the date is fixed for *pen*. This is called *bol pen*. After a few days, *moti pen* is said to be performed when the boy's father with relatives visit the girl's father for fetching her and stays there for the whole night. Again he pays from Rs. 60 to Rs. 70 whereafter *pen* is said to be 'filled in' and all the relatives are invited for drinking liquor which has now been replaced by tea. On the following day, they return with the bride who is accompanied by six to seven women of her parents' side. They stay at bridegroom's place for a day or two and return with the bride. Thereafter, the bridegroom's side again goes to the bride's place when her parents accompany her and lead her to the bridegroom's place. Thus from the very ceremony of *pen*, couple is allowed to live together. After a period of five to six months, a ceremony called *ana* is performed, whereafter the bride remains permanently at her husband's place. The girl's parents are given a sum from Rs. 70 to Rs. 100 by the bridegroom's father. Besides the bride price, her mother is given a *sari* and her father a *fenta* or turban. The girl in her turn is also given a *sari* and a *choli*. The actual marriage ceremony is performed when they get sufficient amount of money, and sometimes even after several children are born. Thus, in the tribal communities, children take part in the marriage celebrations of their father and mother. In case of extreme poverty, marriage ceremony is not performed at all. Engagement is not irrevocable and can be nullified by either party, whenever they desire.

Marriage ceremony--The marriage date is usually fixed by elderly persons of either party along with the headmen of the community and *karbhari*. The preparations usually start 10 or 15 days in advance. Nearest relatives of the parents of both the bride and bridegrooms are invited for participating in the function. The Jagalia or Vethia conveys the marriage invitation from one village to another. A small *mandap* is erected and purchase of new clothes is made by either party. As regards preparation for dinner, both the parties provide large quantities of *kodari* and *dal*. Before the marriage party starts, a dinner consisting of rice prepared of *vari* and *dal* is served with *gur* and onions. The place where the marriage ceremony is to be performed is not painted or decorated in any way but at some places, *torans* or festoons are tied. Marriage songs[1] are sung from dawn till night for five to six days preceding the marriage. They contain slanderous remarks addressed to either side. *Pithi* or the paste of turmeric

1. For details, see Chapter XV—Education and Culture.

powder and oil is applied to bodies of bride and bridegroom one or two days prior to the marriage. The bridegroom and the bride are made to bow down to Surya Dev or the Sun God. No function other than that mentioned above is performed. After engagement vermilion mark is applied on the forehead of the bridegroom and few grains of rice are stuck over it. Recently married persons who are present are also applied a daub or two of pithi. Drums are beaten during this ceremony.

The marriage party usually varies from 50 to 100 persons. The bridegroom is specially dressed for this occasion in new clothes, namely, *dhoti*, shirt and turban. Vermilion is applied on his forehead. When the marriage party starts, the bridegroom holds a sword in his hand resting on his shoulder. At bride's place, a *mandap* is erected wherein a branch of mango tree is also planted along with one of the pillars of the *mandap*. The pandal near the house is put up and decorated prior to marriage occasion. A pot filled with water and covered by a new piece of cloth over its mouth is placed near the pandal. Relatives and guests are served with dinner prior to arrival of the marriage party. On the marriage day both the bridegroom and bride have to observe a fast till completion of marriage ceremony, after which they are given *vari* and *dal* to eat. The marriage party is not welcomed with a reception but when it arrives at the bride's place with drummers and other musicians, persons of both the sides greet one another with folded hands and say 'Ram, Ram'. There is no system of making separate arrangements for the stay of the bridegroom's party. The bridegroom, therefore, stays at the bride's place. The marriage party sits on the *ota* or a sitting platform at the bride's place as soon as the ceremony starts. They are welcomed and served with water and tobacco. Musical instruments that are played on this occasion are *madana*, drum. *kahalya*, (resembling a pipe), etc.

The marriage ceremony is performed either in the evening, in the late evening, at midnight or at dawn. The bridegroom is brought to the pandal by his father and the bride by her mother. They are seated on small stools called *patla* or a mat. *Ponkhavun* ceremony is performed when a priest is engaged for the marriage ceremony but not otherwise. The bride is dressed in a new *sari*, a blouse, *odhani* and a coronet called *barsinga* consisting of two horns and wreaths are placed over her head. Both the bridegroom and the bride are seated by side in the pandal. *Anvar* or the best man is seated near the bridegroom and assists him at the time of marriage rites. The bridegroom maintains a dignified attitude during the ceremony. The bride sits by the side of the bridegroom fully veiled. Normally, a Brahmin priest is not called to perform marriage ceremony. But where he is called, the ceremony is performed according to the *Vedic* rites and hymns are recited. Generally, the village headman manages and does away with such rites as chanting of hymns and *hastamelap*, i. e., joining of hands. The bridegroom puts on *kanthi* or a necklace around the neck

of the bride and walks around *chori* five times followed by the bride. The *chori* is a square place enclosed by four pillars in four corners and in the centre of which holy fire is lighted for the bride and the bridegroom to move round. Thereafter all those present are served with tea. The protocol for taking tea is significant inasmuch as the first to take it is the headman of the *panch*, then other elders, followed by the bride and the bridegroom, and thereafter all those present. The marriage ceremony is considered to end with tea. The marriage party returns home with the bride after halting for a day at the most. *Vari* and *dal* are served in dinner to the members of the marriage party who take their leave and bid fare-well with the words 'Ram, Ram'. After marriage, the bride returns to her parental home on the third day and on the fifth day persons from the bridegroom's side again arrive for fetching her back. The bride's father offers her presents of a *sari* and a *choli*. Generally a marriage costs from Rs. 200 to Rs. 300 to the bridegroom's and Rs. 300 to Rs. 400 to the bride's side. In case both the sides are poor, lesser amount is spent.

Divorce and Separation—Desertion or separation is frequent. A divorce is given, when a woman is found to be not performing household chores properly, or when she is barren, or declared a witch by the Bhuva or a sorcerer or when a spouse longs for another man or woman. Divorced women have no difficulty in finding a suitable match and getting married again. In case of remarriage, the former husband is to be given by the latter an amount called *dapa* which is higher than what the former husband gave to her father. Cases of separation are decided by the community *panch* and elders when both the parties reside in the same village. But when they reside in different villages, the *panchas* of two villages settle the matter. The divorce proceedings are initiated by the aggrieved party, who brings the matter before the *panch*.

Widow remarriage—Remarriage of widows is permitted and takes place freely. Cases are not uncommon when even elderly widows remarry. Remarriage is generally arranged by the parties themselves. A widow may marry a bachelor or a widowed man as she pleases. The step-father has no right whatsoever over the children of his wife by the first marriage, who live with their mother till they grow up. If the step-father objects, the children generally live with relations of their father. Levirate is not prohibited though hardly practised.

Death—Death is ascertained by the physical symptoms by tribals. When they are sure that person is dead all weep loudly. Neighbours, relatives and others from the village gather together. Much weeping and wailing take place. Women weeping and wailing loudly accompany the funeral party upto the first halt, and again when the funeral party returns.

The dead body is carried out from the house when relatives and other persons assemble near the house in sufficient number. The dead body which is besmeared with *kumkum* and turmeric powder is draped in a *dhoti* or a similar new cloth and secured tightly with cotton yarn to the bier. The dead children are carried in hands after covering them with a piece of cloth.

There are two methods of disposal of the dead bodies, i. e., cremation and burial. The old as well as those of high status in the tribal society are cremated while the rest are buried. The place earmarked for cremation as well as for burial lies at one extremity of the village. The funeral party takes with it rice, a scythe, a pick-axe, an axe and a shovel for digging the pit and filling earth. While carrying the dead body to the cremation ground, the funeral party makes a halt at the village outskirts, where they leave a mat, a water-pot and white cloth about 2 to 3 yards and several copper coins which are waved over the dead body from head to foot. A morsel of hotch-potch, water and a coin is put in the mouth of a dead body by the nearest relatives. A paisa or a 25 paise coin is placed also in the right hand. Water is filled in the pot in which hotch-potch is brought. A small hole is punctured at the bottom of this water-pot. Before the dead body is lowered into the pit, water is sprinkled on the ground on which it is to be placed. Prior to that, all the relations and sons move round the dead body three times and after the third round the water-pot is broken. Thereafter, his son or the nearest relative put rice in his mouth and copper coins in his left hand. The son or the nearest relative first put some earth, whereafter the pit is filled up with the help of all the members of the funeral party. A big stone or a thorny bush is then planted over the grave. All those present wash their hands and feet and bring a twig of *kalam* (Mitragyna parvifolia) tree to be placed over the grave. The funeral party then returns to the house of the deceased, where it is served with *bidi* and tobacco.

A widow breaks her bangles with the aid of her brother. In case of cremation the ashes of the dead body are collected on the third or the fourth day after cremation, which is usually a Tuesday or Saturday. And in case of burial, some of the bones are taken out and washed with water. After the fifth day, the ceremony called *diwas* is performed. On this day, the stone placed over the grave is taken away. This ceremony is believed to secure peace in heaven for the departed soul. Mourning is observed for 12 days during which no celebrations are performed, nor any dance and music played. They also do not prepare any good dishes during this time. After one year, *khambhi* or memorial pillaret is erected in the memory of the deceased on the outskirts of the village.

The ceremonial processes described above suggest the concept of tribals about death and the dead. According to the tribals, the spirit which

guards, there would be few violations of the forest laws and conflicts with the forest administration.

VILLAGE LIFE

Village as a Functional Unit of Social Life—Except for certain strictly personal and family affairs for all other purposes, the village is a unit of social structure and social organisation. In all social, economic and religious activities, in giving co-operation to the Government, the village serves as a unit.

Though the people living in a village do not necessarily belong to one tribe, there is a fellow feeling of belonging to a common village. On all social, religious or festival celebrations; all people of the village join and enjoy.

The Village Officials—The Patel (Patil) is a head of the village and in that capacity, he is also a leader in society. He is appointed by the Government. The selection of the Patel is based not only on the consideration of age and experience, but also on the status and influence of a person. The Patel's office though not hereditary, by convention, first preference is given to the heir when the post falls vacant. He is highly respected. He performs many of the functions of the old-fashioned tribal chiefs. He is considered the wisest man of the community and, his advice is usually followed by the tribals in settling details for marrying children. However, in all matters of family disputes, personal rivalries or quarrels, his decision is final and the parties generally abide by his decisions.

In return for his services to Government, the Patel gets a stipend varying from Rs. 20 to Rs. 30 from the Government. Moreover in the annual Darbar, he gets articles like utensils, towels, bed sheets, etc., as presents from the Government. He gets reward for his good service also.

Besides Patel, *karbhari* is another important village servant. He is appointed by the Government. The office is not hereditary. He assists Patel in his work generally and acts as secretary.

A Jagalia like Vartania, is a sort of a village peon. He is a full-time paid servant.

The Panch as a Social Institution—The Panchayat system which formed the most important feature of the corporate life in India, had given remarkable solidarity and continuity to the various rural groups throughout the country. The tribal communities had their own panchayat for regulating social and economic relations.

The *panch* is one of the most important social institutions among the Dangis. In all matters concerning public interest, the *panch's* decision is final and binding on everybody. 'The *panch* is the God,' says a Dangi proverb. It is a group of wise men of the village. Generally the Patel, the Karbhari, one or two *assamis* (rich persons) and one or two old persons, wise by age and experience, sit as the members of the *panch*. These persons are called upon to intervene and advise in settling inter-personal, inter-group and inter-village quarrels. The arbitration of the *panch* sets everything right. The individual who calls names and does not obey the order of the *panch* is called a bad man, a *band* (બાંડ). Such a fellow is boycotted by all.

The *panch* never takes decision on merely hearsay evidence or rumours, but insists on providing solid evidence by the aggrieved party in support of his complaint. Before the *panch*, all the persons irrespective of their wealth or class are equal. Even the richest man in the village or the Patel can be hauled up before the *panch* for his offences and he has to obey the *panch's* decision. The *panch's* writ is more powerful than that of law or police.

The *panch* is a powerful instrument of social control. But with the stricter enforcement of the civil and criminal laws, the authority of the *panchs* has gradually declined and lost its effective sanctions.

The Patterns of Family Life—A family is the smallest unit in the social life of the Dangi people. The participation in the activities of the village is accounted familywise. The invalid old parents stay with their son. The earning sons with their wives in many cases stay in their parental homes. The married daughter joins her husband's family. But if the daughter's husband is a 'Khandhadia',[1] he remains a member of the girl's family for a few years. In the event of the death of the husband of the daughter, or if the married daughter is not happy at her husband's place, the daughter and her children, if any, find shelter in her parental house. The children of the dead brother or sister also find shelter in the uncle's house.

The father is the head of the family. He exercises direct control over all members of the family and manages family affairs.

The eldest son enjoys a respectable position in the family. He is next to the father and a responsible member of the family. He refers to his younger siblings as my son (*amna posa*) or my daughter (*amni posi*).

The Dangi family is patrilocal and patrilineal. It is patrilocal because the girl after her marriage leaves the father's house to join the husband's

1. A son-in-law, who stays and works at the father-in-law's place towards satisfaction of some consideration.

family. The wife and children take the husband's and father's family name respectively. It is patrilineal, because the line of descent is traced through the father. The succession of property is from father to son. The property is neither primogeniture or ultimogeniture. The property is equally divided among all sons. the eldest getting a bit more. If there is no son, the daughters inherit the property. If there are more than one daughter, the father may keep a 'Khandhadia' for one of the daughters and give the property to them. If there is no child, the property goes to the brother or his sons.

Like property, the debt, if any, is divided among the sons, the eldest paying a bit more. If at the time of the death of the father, the family is divided, the son with whom the father was staying inherits the property as well as the debt. Moreover, this son alone bears the expenses of obsequies.

HOME LIFE

Housing—According to the 1961 Census, there were 15,075 houses of which 13,739 or 91·14 per cent were used as dwellings or shops and workshop-*cum*-dwellings, 450 or 2·98 per cent were vacant and the rest 886 or 5·88 per cent were used for non-residential purposes. The number of households was 13,743 as compared to the dwelling houses which numbered 13,739, 86·92 per cent of the households lived in owned houses and the rest in rented houses. Comparatively smaller percentages of non-dwellings, vacant and rented houses indicate a backward economy of the tract.

Housing facilities in the district appear to be on the whole inadequate. 20 per cent sample housing census conducted during 1961 disclosed that 38·92 per cent of the total sample households in the district lived in single room houses, 47·21 per cent in houses with two rooms and 13·73 per cent in houses with more than two rooms. The average number of the members in households occupying one room was 4·43, while that for households with two rooms was 2·63.

The remarkable feature of the housing in the district is that no private person is permitted to construct a *pucca* house. *Pucca* construction is permitted upto the plinth area and the superstructure is to be of wood, bamboo, grass, etc. All *pucca* buildings in the district belong to Government.

Wall and Roof Materials—Most of the houses in villages have been built with grass, leaves, reeds or bamboos in the case of walls and tiles, grass, leaves, reeds, etc., in the case of roof.

According to the Census of 1961, as many as 97·44 per cent of houses in the district were built of grass, leaves, reeds or bamboos and 1·26 per cent of houses were built of stone. 1·01 per cent had walls built with burnt bricks. As regards roofing material, 51·32 per cent of the dwellings had

tiled roofs and 45·37 per cent had roofs of grass, leaves, reeds and bamboos and the rest had cement sheets, stone slabs and corrugated iron or other metal sheets. The roofs were mostly covered with bamboo-sticks, grass and leaves. The flooring in majority of village houses was of beaten earth covered with cow-dung emulsion which is believed to possess certain antiseptic properties. The roof is thatched and sometimes covered with Mangalore or *deshi* tiles. The floor of the house is made up of mud mixed with cow-dung. This plaster lasts for a month or two and is, therefore, redaubed again by women.

Layout of Villages—Dangis living as they do in a hilly and forest region are primitive by modern standards. The old pattern has not changed to any appreciable extent in respect of small villages. As about the place of settlement, the villages are situated having regard to the material resources available such as water supply and cultivable land. Unlike other districts in tribal areas class-wise distribution of wards are not found. The Dangi houses in Ahwa are distributed in several *padas* or *faliyas*. In Ahwa, mostly the Government buildings are of *pucca* construction, where the stones are available from the local area.

The Government has provided subsidies and loans to the tribal people for houses by which the modern *pucca* buildings are constructed by the Housing Board. From the Forest Department, the tribal people are given free bamboos and wood for constructing their houses subject to certain conditions. They mostly build houses like huts, where no plinthwork is done. The houses or huts of tribal people like Kunbis, Varlis and Mavchis are of a type better than the Bhil houses.

The Bhil houses are rectangular buildings, raised above two to three feet off the ground on a layer of earth and stones, with walls, *khappedo*, rising upto four to six feet from the ground. The roof, *chhevaju*, rises at an inclination of 45 degrees from the two length sides, a house at its highest point being not more than fifteen to twenty feet. The houses are made up of bamboo-thatch, mud and cow-dung plaster. The first portions of a house to be erected (after the middle pillar) are five or seven or any other uneven number of upright supports, *belu*, on both the length sides. Other higher supports in the middle come next; these consist of roughly shaped teak branches or trunks. Rafters passing on these two side rows and the middle row of support make up the skeleton of the house, after which it only remains to put split bamboos on these rafters both lengthwise and breadth-wise. Over the bamboos, some layers of teak leaves are laid and over the teak-leaves, a thatching of *vijal*, a species of forest grass, is spread.

The floor, usually cow-dung-covered, is often uneven. Some of the more careful Bhils beat it into evenness. The walls are of bamboo, sometimes

woven to give a nice design, generally plastered with mud and cow-dung. All the walls are blind (without outlets) except the front one, which has a small door for the entrance of the inmates, both human and animal. In some villages, the huts have entrances by the back side also though these are strictly private, leading to the kitchen-*cum*-sleeping rooms; no person not intimate with the household may go into a house through such rear door. The proper entrance is the front door, which generally remains open. But it is closed from inside by an obstructing bamboo at night and padlocked from outside when all the inmates go out.[1]

The houses of medium and poorer class people are smaller in size and roofed with thatch grass, palm leaves, etc. The houses are circular in shape, 10 to 12 feet in diameter with a bamboo pole fixed in the centre upon which the roof is propped. A hearth is usually provided in the middle of the house where most of the cooking is done. Drinking water-pots and water-storing utensils are kept in a corner. The huts are generally distributed in small clusters of a dozen or so, cut off from each other by furlongs and sometimes by miles. Lonely huts are sometimes to be found in a corner of the field. In the open space near the house vegetable plots are planned during the monsoon. The houses are for the most part unfurnished. Amenities like bath-room, latrine, sleeping-room, etc., are on the whole unknown The place where the people pen their livestock is particularly relevant in the context of housing conditions.

Drainage facilities are totally absent in villages. Used water is generally thrown around the houses. Cleanliness and sanitary practices are beyond their ken. Their surroundings stink as they are littered with rubbish and cow-dung.

Statement III·9 Census houses and the uses to which they are put, Statement III·10 Distribution of sample households living in census houses used wholly or partly as dwelling by predominant material of wall and predominant material of roof (based on 20 per cent sample), and Statement III·11 Sample households classified by number of members and by number of rooms occupied (based on 20 per cent sample) extracted from the Housing Tables published in Census of India, Vol. V, Part-VI-B, *Housing and Establishments Tables* are reproduced at the end of this Chapter.

Furniture and Decorations—Household furniture and decorations usually reveal the status, the economic condition and the taste of the householder. The Dangis being the tribal people like Bhils, Kumbis and Varlis have preferred simple furniture for their house in comparison to the people from other districts of the State who are more furnitureminded. Some of the Dangi people have acquired modern type of furniture such as chair, table, bench and framed mirror during the last few years. The other articles of furniture like carpet, *palang*, *khatla*, *pat*, etc., are very rare. They keep cot

1. Naik T. B., *The Bhils (A Study)*, 1956, pp. 27-28.

if any, in the verandah, hang an axe on the wall and a *dholak* on the pillar. Household articles are limited to the barest minimum that can be had in the huts of the tribal people. However, of late, domestic articles like hurricane lantern, bicycle, petromax, etc., are also found in their houses. A very few of them have radio sets.

The Dangi people adorn the house-walls by whitewash and painting the pictures of their Dangi dances, Gods and Goddesses such as Vagh Dev, Nag Dev, Hanuman, etc.

FOOD, DRESS AND ORNAMENTS

Food—The Dangi people take three meals a day, in the early morning, noon and night, as they are engaged in hard manual labour. They eat one meal between 8 and 9 a. m., another at 11 a. m., and the supper between 7 and 8 p. m. After day's labour, people relax and take supper whenever they get themselves sufficiently rested between 7 and 8 p. m. The staple food of the Dangi people is an inferior foodgrain called *nagli*. They prepare bread out of dehusked grains of *nagli*, which are ground into flour. The bread is eaten with *chutney* which is a special pungent paste prepared by pounding green chillies and garlic. Rice and *nagli* are boiled with water for preparing gruel called *bhagar*. Rice of coarse variety is eaten at times and on auspicious occasions, the special dish consists of rice, *dal*, vegetables, fish and meat. It is significant that milk is not available even for babies and wheat and *ghee* are considered luxuries. They eat fowls, flesh of goat, deer, rabbit, wild pig and birds like pigeon, peacock, etc. In the most backward areas, they also eat monkeys and bats. The flesh of cows, bullocks and buffaloes is abhorred and is a taboo to them. By the beginning of monsoon, the food stored by them is exhausted and some have to live on tender leaves, sprouts of bamboo, roots and tubers.

Dress—All the Scheduled Tribes, namely, Kunbis, Bhils, Varlis, etc., dress themselves alike and it is difficult to mark any difference in their mode and material of dressing. Males generally dress themselves in a small loin-cloth and very few of them wear *dhoti*, which always remains above the knees. Nowadays, young boys working on road building wear shorts or *pyjamas*, trousers being seldom in use. Males wear a half-sleeved tunic called *bandi* resembling a waistcoat over a shirt. Sometimes a coat is also put on as an overall. There is no custom of wearing a turban as headgear. The common people put on a *faliyun* on their head while the Chiefs and Naiks wear a *fenta* wrapped on the head with one end hanging loose and the other tucked over the front. However, a few males put on white cap made of *khaddar* or coarse handwoven cotton cloth. The upper garment *bandi* is usually made of cheap grey cotton cloth called *doti*, striped cotton cloth with gaudy colours being preferred for the shirt. The dress of a Dangi woman consists of a *sari* made from 5-6 yards of cheap

cotton cloth, dark red or sky blue in colour. The fashion of putting on *sari* is peculiar. It is worn with a *kachhota* with the front plates tucked behind, but instead of the loose end or *palav* draping the shoulders, it is wound up round the waist. Their *choli* is a buttonless blouse, the lower corners of which are tied in a knot above the waist in the front. It is generally sewn by women themselves, who usually prefer checked cloth or any single coloured cheap cotton cloth. *Odhani* is 2-3 yards of dark red or ochre colour and *polka* is of dotted cotton cloth. Children of both the sexes generally go unclothed. When they attain the age of 5-6 years, boys wear striped shorts or a broad ribbon-like cloth as a *langot*. The dress of boys and girls resembles that of their father and mother.

Ornaments: *Female Ornaments*—The Dangi women are very fond of adorning their hairlocks with *pavalakyan* or stringed strands of 4 anna coins. They wear bangles on their hands and *eliyan* over elbow as an armlet. Bangles are generally made of nickel, though some women wear plastic and glass bangles. The nose-ring called *nath* or *vali* is generally of gold or silver. Ear ornaments comprise ear-clips and chains called *pagaran*. The latter is a chain attached to ear-clips, the other end of which is clipped to the hairlock by passing it over the ears. Necklace or strands containing glass beads of variegated colours and coins of different denominations like a rupee, half a rupee and four anna pieces, are also worn around the neck. Married women generally put on *hansdi* or a silver collar. On legs, they usually do not put on anything. Some females, however, put on anklets on auspicious and festive occasions. These ornaments are generally made of silver and base metals, mostly zinc.

Male Ornaments—Males put on very few ornaments as compared to females. They put on silver *kadu* on the wrist and silver buttons with strands on shirt and *bandi*.

Infants and children do not put on any ornaments. The lobes of ears of small girls are pierced at a tender age and pinned with needle-like stalk of grass. Girls sometimes wear strings of beads of different colours around their neck. For the tribals, ornaments serve a dual purpose of displaying the affluence of the wearer and augmenting the beauty of the person.

COMMUNAL LIFE

Public Games and Recreation—The tribal people of the Dangs district are unknown to the western games which are played in other districts of the Gujarat State. Only in the headquarters of the district like Ahwa and Waghai, where the Government servants coming from the advanced districts play the western games like cricket, badminton, table-tennis, volley ball, carrom, etc., with great interest.

Formerly in the jungle a Dangi was generally seen with a bow and a quiver of arrows. But this has become a rare sight now. They are very proficient in the art of archery. The games like *hututu*, *kho kho* and *langadi* are played in the villages. *Pakad dav*, *topi dav*, hide and seek and *amlipimpli* are commonly played in the schools. The games like badminton, carrom and volley ball are played with zest by the students of the Ashram Schools, and High Schools of Ahwa and Waghai.

There is no sports institution in the Dangs. The cultural centres conducted by the Prohibition Department are encouraging the games like volley ball at every place. Block Development Officials are establishing youth welfare centres to promote games, both Indian and western.

CALENDAR

The Dangi people generally follow the Hindu and the Christian calendars. The names of the days, months and seasons differ in comparison with the Hindu and Christian calendars. According to the Dangi calendar year, there are three seasons, namely, *Hiyalo* (Winter), *Unalo* (Summer) and *Pahuo* (Monsoon). There are twelve months in a year and seven days in a week. The Dangis have no knowledge about the movement of the earth and the moon. They can calculate the time and hour of the day and night from the position of the sun and the moon in the sky. They do not know how to make use of pole-star in recognising the directions. They have no knowledge about *nakshatras* (constellations) or *grahas* (planets). They only talk about the Rohini *nakshatra* that when the Rohini sets in, the monsoon season starts. The names of months given by the Dangi people and the corresponding months in the Hindu and Christian calendars are as under :

Sl. No.	Dangi name	Hindu name	Christian name
1	Diwali	Kartik	October-November
2	Magsar	Margashirsh	November-December
3	Push-Sankrant	Paush	December-January
4	Panchem-Satem	Magh	January-February
5	Simga-Holi	Phalgun	February-March
6	Jatra	Chaitra	March-April
7	Akhatij	Vaishakh	April-May
8	Jeth	Jyeshtha	May-June
9	Akhad	Ashadh	June-July
10	Savan	Shravan	July-August
11	Bhadjyo	Bhadrapad	August-September
12	Dashra	Ashvin	September-October

A month is known by an important festival or fair which falls in that particular month. The Dangi people cannot calculate accurately the beginning or the ending of the month.

The seven days of the week are as follows :

English	*Gujarati*	*Dangi*
Sunday	Raviwar	Itwar
Monday	Somwar	Somwar
Tuesday	Mangalwar	Mangalwar
Wednesday	Budhwar	Budhwar
Thursday	Guruwar	Bhestarwar
Friday	Shukrawar	Shukarwar
Saturday	Shaniwar	Shaniuhar

FESTIVALS

Festivals as they are celebrated in this country symbolise people's cultural, social and religious aspirations which besides helping them to lead a fuller and better life also remove its monotony by providing physical diversion and mental recreation. Though principally associated with religion, there are a number of occasions wherein the social aspect assumes prominence. In fact, festivals are special days, periods of time and seasons which are so designed as to ensure individual joy by practising religion mingled with social joy and domestic happiness. The festivals are the land-marks in the routine life of a people. The Dangis are primarily agriculturists, and so their festivals are also agriculture-centred. Most of the festivals fall during the agricultural season. They are as follows :

(1) *Simga (the festival of Holi)*—The festival of Holi is celebrated on the fifteenth day of Phalgun. Among all the festivals the day of Holi has the greatest significance to the Dangis. Holi known as Simga, i. e., the song of the forest, is celebrated for five days. Men, women and children put on new dresses, decorate their persons as well as the houses, sing and dance for all the days. On the first of the five days, the full moon day of Phalgun, during the day-time, the young boys and children collect firewood. A long piece of a trunk of a tree is erected in a pit and a heap of firewood is made around it. In the evening, all the villagers collect togather. The Patel and a few important persons of the village worship the goddess Holika. All present there join in the worship, and the bonfire is lit ceremoniously by the Jagalia. The children and the elders shout with joy, throw corn, cocoanuts, and dried cocoanut chips into the fire and take five ceremonial rounds of the fire.

Then people greet and embrace and offer good wishes to each other. The persons in whose family a death has occurred, as a mark of grief and sorrow do not attend this function. Hence some people visit such bereaved families and console them. Some people observe a fast on this day and break the fast after worship of the goddess Holika. The bonfire is kept burning for five days and the young men of the village sleep at night near the fire.

Dancing and signing are the main occupation of the youths in these days. They put on new dresses, visit other villages and dance.

Some people put on funny dresses and masks. A man may put on a female's dress or a mask of an animal, disfigure his face and dance. They move in group from house to house, and also visit nearby villages for collecting *goth* or contribution.

On the fifth day the bonfire is ceremonially put out. People ask each other's apology and offer good wishes.

The festival of the Holi marks the end of the spring and the beginning of the agricultural season. Like the Diwali, the Holi is also an occasion for making major purchases particularly clothes for the family. Dangs Darbar is held during the Holi festival.

(2) *Akhatij*—According to the Hindu calendar, Akhatij falls on the third day of the first fortnight of Vaishakh. As the Dangis are illiterate, they count differently. This day according to them comes after passing of four Sundays and four Tuesdays after Holi. Second or third day after this will be Akhatij. This is more or less an accurate calculation. On this day the Dangis down tools and do not undertake any economic activity. On this day, they invariably go to the river for catching fish out of which they prepare delicacies.

Before a week of Akhatij, seeds of all kinds of corn, i. e., *nagli, vari,* rice, etc., are sown in a basket. They are watered for all these days. Within these seven days, the seeds germinate. Their growth is observed with interest and curiosity. The luxuriant growth is indicative of the richness of crops in the ensuing season. The basket is worshipped on Akhatij and ceremoniously thrown into the water. They also worship the god of cyclone on this day.

(3) *Tera*—This festival falls in the month of Ashadh after the rains have fallen and the earth is covered with green grass. This festival marks the beginning of eating of the produce of the rains. All the members of the family go out and search for Tera leaves. These leaves are washed, boiled and some salt is added to it. Use of green vegetation of the monsoon before this day is prohibited.

(4) *Pola*—This festival falls in Bhadrapad. By this time, the new crops of the season have grown up sufficiently in the fields. This day marks the beginning of the use of the new crops. When the crops are ready in the fields of all the families of the village, a day is fixed for this celebration. The members of the family go to their fields, cut a few stalks of *makai* or *nagli* and cook at home. This new produce is served to the cattle in the house also.

No Dangi thinks of cutting and eating the new crop, if the crop is ready in his own fields but not in fields of others. This is because Pola is a community festival.

(5) *Wagh Baras*—The twelfth day of the second fortnight of Ashvin is known as 'Wagh Baras'. The name indicates that it is a day of worship of Wagh (tiger). The Dangis offer a sacrifice of a cock to the Wagh Dev and request for his pleasure and favour.

There is one strange belief among the Dangis. In the evening when the cattle return from grazing, they are collected outside the village. All the passages except one to the village are closed. In this one passage, an egg is put and the cows are made to run over this egg. If at the end, the egg remains unbroken, it is believed that the next year would be good for cattle health.

Other festivals which are celebrated widely are Dashera, Diwali, *pachavi* (Nagpanchmi) and *pitra* (શ્રાદ્ધ). Incidents of persons observing other auspicious days like Gokul Ashtami, Makar Sankranti, Divaso, Moharrum and Id by the Muslims are few. There are a few persons who observe fast regularly one day or the other. Some observe fast on Saturday or Monday, Tuesday or Sunday. Very few observe fast on Wednesday or Friday. Muslims observe 'Roza' in the month of Ramzan. The objective of these observances, which are essentially religious, is self-purification.

The celebration of the festivals and the community mass worship of the gods have great social significance in the life of a people. It is more so, among the tribals, the Dangis. Because for such primitive people, these celebrations provide opportunities for mixing with each other, enriching their group life, and enhancing their spirit and joy. They keep the people united against a common difficulty. Such festivals and rituals involved in their celebrations are important means of social control. They are the traditional guides of individual's personal and community social behaviour. Participation in these festivals and worship smoothen the process of individual socialisation. Secondly, these festivals and religious activities are spread over the year in such a way that they serve the purpose of dates in a yearly calendar. Moreover, a religious ceremony or a ritual performed at the initiation of an agricultural activity creates confidence.

FAIRS

Fairs are generally associated with different stages of agricultural operations, marketing days, deities and religious observances. The following statement gives the names of deities with which the fairs are linked up, months in which they are held and the number of participants in such fairs.

STATEMENT III-8

Fairs according to Deity, Month and size of Congregation

(In descending order of congregation)

Deity	Month	Total: Number of fairs	Total: Congregation	Below 5,000: Number of fairs	Below 5,000: Congregation	5,000 to 9,999: Number of fairs	5,000 to 9,999: Congregation	10,000 to 24,999: Number of fairs	10,000 to 24,999: Congregation	25,000 to 49,999: Number of fairs	25,000 to 49,999: Congregation	50,000 and above: Number of fairs	50,000 and above: Congregation
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Total	..	7	30,475	6	7,975	..	..	1	22,500	..	..	..	..
Holi	March	1	22,500	..	..	..	..	1	22,500	..	..	..	..
Muslim Pirs	Zilhijja	1	4,500	1	4,500	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Commercial	*Total*	*4*	*3,175*	*4*	*3,175*	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Every Sunday	1	475	1	475	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Every Monday	1	650	1	650	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Every Tuesday	2	2,050	2	2,050	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Rama	January	1	300	1	300	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

Source :
Census of India 1961, Vol. V, Gujarat, Part VII-B, *Fairs and Festivals*, (Part-II, Tables), p. 256.

As the statement indicates the total number of fairs reported in the district every year comes to 7. Among them one is held in March (Phalgun-Chaitra) which attracts about 22,500 devotees. Another fair is dedicated to Shri Rama, which is held in January and attracts 300 devotees. There are weekly bazar fairs. They are held on particular day of the week. Every Sunday and Monday, there is one fair each and every Tuesday, there are two fairs.

There is only one isolated fair organised by Muslim Jamat, and attended by about 4,500 devotees belonging to all communities. The fair is held in the month of Zilhijja. It is called Badsha Bava Pir Urs in memory of Muslim saint Badsha Bava and Saiyad Mohammed Shakir.

Dangs Darbar Fair—The fair, which deserve specific mention is the Dangs Darbar fair held at Ahwa, the headquarters of the Dangs district. The details about the fair are given below :

The Darbar traces its origin from the time of the British who used to hold a court (*darbar*) for presenting forest subsidies to the Bhil Rajas and Naiks at the hands of the Political Agent. It is still continued as Jamabandi Darbar where the Collector gives prizes of brass and copper vessels, or silver armlets to Patels, Karbharis and Jagalias for their meritorious services rendered at the time of jungle fires.

The fair is held on the eve of the Holi, i. e., Phalgun Sud 15. The people from the whole district, merchants and tourists from outside participate in the Dangs Darbar fair in which about 100 to 150 stalls of utensils, toys, cutlery, articles of bamboo, forest products and household goods are put up. Merchants from the neighbouring districts of Surat, Nasik and West Khandesh bring most of these articles for sale except those made of bamboo which are products of household industry in the district. Stalls of ready-made garments, brass and copper vessels and ornaments of brass and silver have a special attraction for the Adivasis as this is the only annual fair in the district which provides them an opportunity of shopping for such necessities of domestic use. The purchases are in some cases made by barter, i. e., in exchange of foodcrops, oil-seeds, etc. Besides these, the folk-dances are performed which are very common among tribals and are invariably performed during festivals and social gatherings. During 5 days of the Holi, groups of tribal people move in surrounding villages and dance to the accompaniment of music. The Education Department nowadays organises such folk-dances, *ras*, *garba*, songs and dramas during the fair. Documentary films are shown by Block authorities. Agricultural and cattle-shows along with stalls of different developmental activities are also organised on the occasion. The fair is organised by the District Local Board, which also makes arrangements for water supply. Sanitation is looked after by the Public Health Department.

New Trends

The hilly Dangs district though isolated physically from the adjacent plains districts has not remained a closed book. The winds of change are blowing all over after introduction of the Five Year Plans. The impact of development programmes has been considerable and far-reaching. The changes are visible in dress, ornaments and other habits of the Dangis. Formerly, the tribal adults generally put on *faliu* but they are now replaced by caps. They even go bare-headed. *Langoti* (loin-cloth) is replaced by *dhoti* and *kurta*. Sometimes, a jacket with pockets is worn, as a coat is found to be very expensive. The dress of women has undergone great changes. Formerly, the breasts used to be uncovered or covered by heavy ornaments of stone-beads, but now *choli* or a blouse has become quite common. The *sari* is also put on. The school-going girls have started wearing frocks.

Further, the food habits have also undergone change. The diet of the tribals consists of *nagli*, *jowar*, maize or *val* boiled in water. They relish fish and meat. Rice and *dal* are consumed on ceremonial occasions. Consumption of vegetables is on the increase.

The tribal houses mostly consist of a single-room tenement without sufficient light and air. They have no windows and seldom any bathroom or outlets for water. With the introduction of the co-operative housing scheme, the standard of house construction has improved. Thatched walls and thatched roofs are still most common but are being replaced by mud walls and tiled roofs. Huts run up with wattle and daub are still the common pattern.

About education, the facilities provided under the Five Year Plans are having their impact on the Dangis. The Dangis formerly did not send their children to school in order to utilise them in the fields or forests as helping hands. But now, Ashramshalas have been opened where they are provided with free boarding, lodging and clothes. This has attracted children to Ashramshalas. As a result, the percentage of literacy has increased from 5·45 in 1951 to 9·26 in 1961.

About health, the primary health centres and the civil hospital have helped remove the Dangis' faith to a great extent in witch-craft, Bhuvas and Bhagats. Formerly, they were afraid of going to any dispensary and preferred to go to Bhuva or Bhagat. Now they prefer to go to a hospital for treatment.

With the spread of education and contact with the outside people, animistic and superstitious beliefs are now gradually being replaced by rational beliefs. The Christian missions entered Dangs in the first decade

of the century and tried to provide medical treatment and spread education and Christianity. After Independence, these facilities are being provided under the Five Year Plans with the result that the influence of Christianity has gradually waned. With the increasing social contact with the people of adjacent areas, the influence of the Hindu religion is on the increase. The Dangis worship a number of Hindu gods and goddesses.

About occupation, agriculture and forest labour are the principal avenues of employment and means of maintenance. In the absence of any agro-based or forest-based industries in the district, tribals have not developed any technical skills. There is no increase in the economic activity as such and, therefore, their economic condition has not much improved. The agricultural economy has, however, undergone appreciable change due to the concessions and facilities provided by the Government under the Five Year Plans.

Till recently, all the cultivators were Government lessees. Now Government has decided to confer occupancy rights on all cultivators in respect of the lands under their cultivation in the protected forests from the 1st January, 1970. With conferment of occupancy rights, the Dangis may feel to have a greater stake in cultivation.

There is no problem of untouchability in the district, because it is mainly inhabited by the tribals But the problem of economic isolation persists. Their isolation from the main current of the Indian life has helped the tribals to preserve their customs and traditions, but at the same time, it has hindered their growth of competence to meet the challenges of the world.

The British attitude to the tribals was protective and paternalistic. The policy of exclusion or partial exclusion of the tribal areas reduced economic competition between the tribals and non-tribals and thus minimised the principal cause of conflict between them But this policy could not eliminate all competition nor could it preclude infiltration of new ideas and innovations alien to the tribal way of life. After Independence, a measure of special protection to the tribals has been continued and strengthened. But in the rapidly changing context of national life, they have been catapulted from their relative isolation into the vortex of competitive politics. An articulate and effective political elite is emerging in the district Tribal problems are being politicized. Manifestation of tribal unrest may be said to be the product of manipulative politics. There has been a noticeable shift in their political attitudes and strategies. From politics of compliance and affirmation, the tribals seem to move over to the politics of pressure and protest.

STATEMENT III-9

Census Houses and the uses to which they are put

District/ Taluka	Rural	Total No. of Census Houses	Census Houses vacant at the time of house listing	Occupied Census Houses used as				
				Dwellings				
				Dwellings	Shop -*cum*- dwellings	Work-shop- -*cum*- dwellings	Non-dwellings	Others
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Dangs District/ Taluka	Rural	15,075	450	13,643	81	15	488	398

Source :

Census of India 1961. Vol. V, Gujarat, Part IV—B, *Housing and Establishment Tables*, pp. 30-31.

STATEMENT III-10

Distribution of Sample Households Living in Census Houses used Wholly or Partly as Dwelling by Predominant Material of Wall and Predominant Material of Roof

(Based on 20 per cent Sample)

District / Taluka	Rural	Total number of households	Predominant Material of Wall: Grass, leaves, reeds or bamboo	Timber	Mud	Unburnt bricks	Burnt bricks	C. I. sheets or other metal sheets	Stone	Cement concrete	All other material
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Dangs District/Taluka *	R	2,775	2,704	..	.	.	28	2	35	3	3

District / Taluka	Predominant Material of Roof: Grass, leaves, reeds, thatch, wood or bamboo	Tiles, slate, shingle	Corrugated iron, zinc or other metal sheet	Asbestos, cement sheets	Brick and lime	Concrete and stone	All other material
1	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Dangs District/Taluka *	1,259	1,424	2	67	..	23	..

* Entirely rural

Source :

Census of India 1961, Vol. V, Gujarat, Part IV—B, *Housing and Establishment Tables*, pp. 500-501.

STATEMENT III·11

Sample Households Classified by Number of Members and by Number of Rooms Occupied

(Based on 20 per cent Sample)

District / Taluka	Rural	Total number of households	Total number of members		Total number of rooms	Households with no regular room			Households with one room		
			Males	Females		Number of households	Number of members: Males	Number of members: Females	Number of households	Number of members: Males	Number of members: Females
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Dangs District/ Taluka*	R	2,775	7,386	6,702	4,886	4	119	1	1,080	2,510	2,279

District/Taluka	Rural	Households with two rooms			Households with three rooms			Households with four rooms			Households with five rooms or more		
		Number of households	Number of members: Males	Number of members: Females	Number of households	Number of members: Males	Number of members: Females	Number of households	Number of members: Males	Number of members: Females	Number of households	Number of members: Males	Number of members: Females
1	2	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Dangs District/Taluka*	R	1,310	3,503	3,396	341	1,054	896	37	125	122	3	75	8

* Entirely rural

Source : Census of India 1961, Vol. V, Gujarat, Part IV—B, *Housing and Establishment Tables*, pp. 530-531.

PART IV—ECONOMIC ORGANISATION

CHAPTER IV

AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION

Dangs is essentially a mountainous tract covered with dense forests which occupy nearly 95 per cent of its total area. The area available for agriculture consists of small patches in the protected forests. The soils in general are poor and unable to retain rain-water which flows down undulating slopes. They thus get immediately dried up, without leaving any sub-soil moisture. As there are no perennial rivers, there is little scope for irrigation. Moreover, the cultivators are all Adivasis. Illiterate and primitive as they are, they hesitate to employ improved tools and scientific techniques of agriculture. For these reasons, the district is very much backward in agriculture. However, agriculture remains the mainstay of the Dangis, supplemented by the forest labour.

According to the 1961 Census, 88·40 per cent of the total working population of the district was engaged in agriculture, as against 68·09 per cent in the State as a whole. This percentage is the highest among all districts of Gujarat. Most of the agriculturists come from Adivasi communities like Kunbis and Varlis. Referring to them, Mr. G. E. Marjoribanks[1] observed as under :

> "Left to itself this population is chiefly concerned with the cultivation of *nagli* and to that end seems bent on cutting and burning a maximum quantity of branch-wood and bamboos for ash manure. But it is not left to itself. It is coaxed and even gently propelled into taking a now large share in felling and fashioning timber and even carting it, working on road construction and repairs, on buildings, sawmills, cultural works and other forest activities, both for Government direct and for contractors The Dangi is a very fair workman but he likes time off for his fields. He is in great demand and there is not enough of him."

It is significant to note that under executive orders of Government, only the Dangis are allowed to cultivate lands in the Dangs. The table that follows gives the number of persons working as cultivators and agricultural labourers in 1961.

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1. Marjoribanks G. E., *Working Plan for the Dangs Forests*, (1926), p. 2.

Persons Engaged in Agriculture

	Total	Males	Females
As cultivators	26,091	13,824	12,267
As agricultural labourers ...	8,527	4,288	4,239
Total	**34,618**	**18,112**	**16,506**

Source :

District Census Handbook, 1961, Dangs, p. 15.

The statement given above indicates that of the total number of persons engaged in agriculture, 26,091 or 75·37 per cent were cultivators and only 8,527 or 24·63 per cent were agricultural labourers. It has to be noted that though returned as cultivators, most of the Adivasis simultaneously work in forest as labourers. As stated above, agriculture is the mainstay of the Dangis. But as the cultivable area is not adequate (75,000 to 80,000 acres only) agriculture has become a part-time job with the Dangis. Their 1/3 time of the year is spent on agriculture, 1/3 time on forest labour involving cutting of forest and carting of timber and the remaining 1/3 time is spent on other labour in road construction, paper mills and idling. It is, however, to be noted that no man in the Dangs is completely starving because of the bounties of nature, such as roots, bamboos and different leafy vegetables (*Bhajis*).

Besides agriculture, as many as 1,522 persons were engaged in allied occupations of animal husbandry, forestry, fishing, hunting and allied activities.

LAND UTILISATION

The utilisation of the available land resources is central to any programme of economic planning in the agricultural economy of the district. It reveals the various uses to which land is put and also indicates methods of exploitation of its resources for better production.

Most of the land in the Dangs is occupied by forests. Predominance of forest areas and paucity of cultivable land are the striking features of land utilisation in the Dangs, as can be seen from the following statistics for years 1956-57, 1961-62 and 1967-68.

STATEMENT IV·1

Land Utilisation

(AREA IN '00 HECTARES)

Sl. No.	Item	1956-57* Area in hectares	1956-57* Percentage of total area	1961-62* Area in hectares	1961-62* Percentage of total area	1967-68† Area in hectares	1967-68† Percentage of total area
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Total reported area for land utilisation purposes ..	**1,712**	**100.00**	**1,712**	**100.00**	**1,785**	**100.00**
1	Forests	1,425	83.23	1,160	68.11	964+736‡ =1,700	54.01+41.23 =95.24
2	Land put to non-agricultural uses	N. A.	N. A.	30	1.75	39	2.18
3	Barren and unculturable land ..	N. A.	N. A.	24	1.40	169	9.47
4	Permanent pastures and other grazing lands	N. A.	N. A.	2	0.12	4	0.22
5	Land under miscellaneous tree crops and groves not included in net area sown ..	N. A.	N. A.	2	0.12	..	..
6	Culturable waste ..	1	0.06	8	0.47	26	1.46
7	Current fallows ..	78	4.56	60	3.50	86	4.82
8	Other fallows ..	N. A.	N. A.	21	1.23	13	0.73
9	Net area sown ..	208	12.15	399	23.30	484	27.11
10	Area sown more than once	N. A.	N. A.	1	0.06	1	0.06
11	Total cropped area..	208	12.15	400	23.36	485	27.17

N. A. = Not available

Source :

* *Basic Agricultural Statistics of Gujarat State*, Director of Agriculture, Ahmedabad, (1968), pp. 22-25.

† Director of Agriculture, Gujarat State, Ahmedabad

‡ Area under forest for 1967-68 as given by the District Inspector of Land Records for land utilisation classification is 964 hundred hectares. Area under forest reported by the Chief Conservator of Forests is 1,700 hundred hectares. There is thus a difference of 736 hundred hectares in the figures reported by the two agencies. Since it is not possible to show 1,700 hunderd hectares of area of land under forest within the total area reported for land utilisation the difference of 736 hundred hectares is shown separately and added in the total area under forest.

The figures for the year 1956-57 are for the district as constituted then.

The analysis of the data reveals that the forest area as reported by the Chief Conservator of Forests comprised 95·24 per cent of the total reported area for land utilisation purposes in the district during 1967-68. As the Adivasis are not hard working cultivators, the fallow land has increased from 4·73 per cent in 1961-62 to 5·55 per cent in 1967-68, and barren and unculturable land from 1·40 per cent to 9·47 per cent during the same period. However, the net area under cultivation has increased from 23·30 per cent to 27·11 per cent. Lastly, the total cropped area has also increased from 23·36 per cent to 27·17 per cent during the six-year period.

In the Dangs, all lands vest in Government and there is no private ownership of land. Generally the Dangis followed what is known as shifting cultivation, cultivating different patches of land in different years. Cultivation is permitted only in the protected forests to the Dangis on the annual lease system subject to payment of *halpatti* of Rs. 6·50 per plough. As the land is not fertile, the Dangis grow early maturing crops such as paddy and *nagli*, which are their staple food.

Land Reclamation—The scheme known as 'Reclamation of Government land at Government cost' is in operation since 1959-60. The area reclaimed under the scheme till 1969-70 was 544 hectares. The progress achieved under this scheme (yearwise) is shown below :

Year	Land reclaimed in hectares	Expenditure incurred in Rs.
1959-60	26	20,884
1960-61	48	14,267
1961-62	110	29,960
1962-63	70	24,000
1963-64	43	18,186
1964-65	74	25,000
1965-66	57	30,000
1966-67	43	30,000
1967-68	34	22,559
1968-69 (including flood relief work) ..	20	32,100
1969-70	19	30,000
Total	**544**	**276,956**

Source :

Sub-Divisional Soil Conservation Officer, Ahwa.

During the Third Plan period only contour-bunding work was taken up. Considering the high intensity of rain and the slopy topography, the work of terracing was also started from the year 1968-69. The extent of land utilization can be increased by adopting soil conservation measures.

IRRIGATION

All the four rivers in the Dangs, namely, the Purna, the Ambika, the Gira and the Khapri which flow through hills and dales, turn dry after the monsoon. There are no check-dams constructed over them with the result that little water flows in them after monsoon. There is thus no scope for irrigation by canals. Unsuccessful attempts were made in the past to provide irrigation. During the Third Plan period about 14 irrigation schemes were surveyed, but as they were not found feasible, they were dropped. As such, wells remain the main source of irrigation in the district. In 1967-68, only 0·14 per cent of the cultivated area was under irrigation and that was irrigated by wells only. Most of the wells are situated in and around the village Chinchli.

The rainfall varies from 200 to 250 cms. The Dangi cultivators mainly depend on monsoon rains and as a result mostly kharif crops are cultivated. However, in those parts where natural streams and wells are found, the cultivators are gradually taking to rabi crops like wheat, pulses, vegetables, etc.

The Dangis are not accustomed to put check-dams across the rivers, *nalas*, streams, etc., and as such, much water is wasted. To make the best use of these water resources, 52 check-dams have been constructed. The cultivators are also persuaded to grow vegetables in fields near rivers, *nalas*, streams, etc.

By the end of Third Five Year Plan, 28 new wells were dug and 38 oil-engines were installed for irrigation purposes. As a result, the area under irrigaion has increased from 34 hectares in 1965 to 100 hectares in 1969.

Because of the hilly terrain, irrigation farming is only possible on a very small scale. To encourage sinking of wells where feasible, liberal financial assistance is given to cultivators. The scheme of sinking new wells and repairs to old wells has been started since the First Plan. Improvement in lift irrigation through installation of the Persian wheels (Bulsar *Rahat*) and pumping sets is also being encouraged.

SOIL CONSERVATION

As the land is slopy, soil-erosion occurs on a wide scale. This adversely affects the soil fertility. Measures aimed at soil conservation have, there-

fore, a very important place in the development programme in the district. One of the methods of soil conservation is contour-bunding. Bunding operations were initiated in the district in 1949-50. The rain-water which was drained away on account of the slopy nature of the land was stored through the bunding of fields in order to conserve the moisture of the soil. During the First Five Year Plan, 486 hectares of land were contour-bunded in the district.

The scheme regarding bunding of paddy fields came into existence in 1956-57 and continued upto August 1964. The purpose of this scheme was to protect the fields of Dangi cultivators from soil-erosion. For this purpose, 75 per cent of the cost was granted to cultivators as subsidy and 25 per cent as loan. During the years 1956-57 to 1964-65, an area of 1,248 hectares was contour-bunded at a cost of Rs. 86,607 as shown below :

Contour-bunding 1956-57 to 1964-65

Year	Area of land bunded in hectares	Cost incurred in Rs.
1	2	3
1956-57	113	4,242
1957-58	41	9,118
1958-59	145	9,118
1959-60	99	11,085
1960-61	68	3,533
1961-62	223	13,976
1962-63	225	15,507
1963-64	217	16,233
1964-65	117	3,795
Total	**1,248**	**86,607**

Source :
Sub-Divisional Soil Conservation Officer, Ahwa.

Nearly 14,569 hectares of land is under inferior varieties of foodgrains. If this land is converted into *kyari* land, paddy can be grown easily. Soil conservation measures were taken up during the Second Plan period and over 3,318 hectares of land were bunded by the end of the Third Plan. It was found necessary to terrace hilly slopes and simultaneously to plug nearby *nalas* so that water could be impounded and utilised for irrigating the paddy fields. Government, therefore, sanctioned in 1970 the scheme for soil conservation works converting 4,047 hectares of land into *kyari* land at an estimated cost of Rs. 12 lakhs annually.

SOILS

The terrain is mostly Deccan trap. Its undulating structure is formed by rocks. The soils range from red to black. Red soil is found along the lower parts of the valley and black soil in the plains of the western Dangs. Soil fertility is poor and lands are subject to erosion on slopes and terraces. In the entire district the soils are somewhat acidic and become very hard after the rains. Known as lateritic soils, they are generally formed due to silting on the soil-particles. In some parts, medium loam to sandy loam soils are also found.

The soils in the Dangs have good drainage quality and as such are most suitable for fruit crops like lemon, guava, cashewnut, pine-apple, etc. In river side areas, crops like potato, sugar-cane, etc., can be cultivated if irrigation facilities are available.

CROPPING PATTERN

The Dangis mainly cultivate food crops as they produce for consumption and not for sale. For this reason, percentage of cash crops cultivated in the Dangs has always been quite negligible.

The *Khandesh Gazetteer* published in 1880 recorded as follows : "The chief crops are *nagli Eleusine coracana*: rice *bhat Oryza sativa*, *kodra Paspalum scrobiculatum*, *vari Panicum miliaceum*, *bajri Penicillaria spicata*, *udid Phaseolus mungo*, gram *chana Cicer arietinum*, and *tur Cajanus indicus*. In the upper Dangs wheat is grown, but in quantities so small that, for the Government establishment and forest labourers, supplies have to be brought from Bilimora and Chikhli in Surat. Among vegetables, potatoes, locally known as *bhui kand*, grow to a great size, many of them from eight to ten pounds."[1]

The crops grown in the district at present are *nagli*, rice, *vari*, *mag*, *udid*, etc., and inferior millets like *banti* and *kodra*. The most important local crops are *nagli* and *vari*. There are no garden crops but the cultivators have been inspired to take up fruit crops like mango, guava, *kagdi* lime, etc. A few cultivators have initiated cultivation of vegetables like brinjal, tomatoes, cabbage, cauliflower, onion, etc., in their kitchen gardens. A few have taken to vegetable crops on river banks. Cultivation of potatoes has not been extended to appreciable extent. The total area under fruits and vegetables in the district was only 11 hectares in 1967-68. As cultivation of *kagdi* lime is found more suitable in this tract, its seedlings and grafts are supplied to cultivators by the Agriculture Department.

1. CAMPBELL J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*. Vol. XII, *Khandesh*, Bombay, (1880), p. 602.

The above facts show that after 1880, there is no pronounced change in the cropping pattern in the district because of the hilly forest terrain and the backward Adivasi population.

Areas under different crops during 1950-51, 1955-56, 1960-61, 1963-64 and 1967-68 are given in the following statement.

STATEMENT IV-2

Area under Principal Crops

(IN '00 HECTARES)

Crops	1950-51*	1955-56*	1960-61*	1963-64†	1967-68†
Rice	45	26	69	61	46
Jowar	..	..	..	..	5
Maize	8	2	3	3	3
Ragi	49	40	106	119	136
Other cereals .. .	5	33	42	47	92
Total cereals	*107*	*101*	*220*	*242*	*282*
Gram	8	1	2	2	2
Tur	..	10	16	24	26
Other pulses	7	12	38	45	50
Total pulses	*15*	*23*	*56*	*61*	*78*
Total foodgrains	**122**	**124**	**276**	**311**	**360**
Chillies	4	..	1	1	1
Groundnut	..	..	3	2	3
Total oilseeds	..	..	*4*	*4*	*66*

Source :

**Statistics of Area, Production and Yield per Acre of Principal Crops in Gujarat State for the Period 1949-50 to 1963-64*, Director of Agriculture, Ahmedabad, (1965), pp. 26-156.

† Director of Agriculture, Gujarat State, Ahmedabad.

It will be seen that the area under total foodgrains has gradually increased from 12,200 hectares in 1950-51 to 36,000 hectares in 1967-68. The major increase has been in the acreage of ragi and other cereals which include coarse millet like *vari*, the staple food of the Dangis. Area under rice remained almost static possibly due to non-availability of irrigation facilities. Pulses increased from 1,500 hectares in 1950-51 to 7,800 hectares in 1967-68. Area under oilseeds was negligible till 1960. It increased from 400 hectares in 1960-61 to 6,600 hectares in 1967-68 due to the strenuous efforts of Agriculture Department. Under the impact of the Five Year Plans,

Dangi cultivators are now inspired to take up cultivation of *jowar*, wheat and commercial crops like sugar-cane, groundnut, etc. These facts show that the agricultural production which was limited under the traditional methods, has undergone considerable changes under the Five Year Plans.

Out-turn of Crops—The out-turn of principal crops in the district during the period 1950-51 to 1966-67 is given in the following statement :

STATEMENT IV·3

Out-turn of Principal Crops

(IN '00 TONNES)

Crops	1950-51*	1955-56*	1960-61*	1963-64†	1966-67†
Rice	29	20	33	53	38
Maize	4	1	1	3	2
Ragi	16	40	79	89	65
Other cereals	1	19	15	15	36
Total cereals	*50*	*80*	*128*	*160*	*141*
Gram	3	..	1	1	..
Tur	..	7	8	12	13
Other pulses	3	4	14	18	15
Total pulses	*6*	*11*	*23*	*31*	*28*
Total foodgrains	**56**	**91**	**151**	**191**	**169**
Chillies	2	..	..	1	1
Groundnut	..	..	1	1	2

Source :

* *Statistics of Area, Production and Yield per Acre of Principal Crops in Gujarat State for the Period 1949-50 to 1963-64*. Director of Agriculture, Ahmedabad, (1965), pp. 27-133.

† Director of Agriculture, Gujarat State, Ahmedabad.

The crops in which there is a noteworthy increase during 1950-51 to 1966-67 are ragi. other cereals and pulses In the case of the remaining crops, there is no significant change in the out-turn.

METHODS OF CULTIVATION

Shifting cultivation was practised as a way of life in the past as a result of which extensive forest areas were in a state of partial or complete wreck. As the *Khandesh Gazetteer* (1880) observed : "The people move their villages with great readiness, and choosing fresh patches of forest, clear them for tillage. Such clearances are found scattered over the forests, on the tops and slopes of hills, and on the level lands in valleys. Cultivation

is carried on partly by digging, partly by rude ploughing, and partly by wood ash, *dali*, tillage."[1] The harmful practice of shifting cultivation impoverished the soil, as the cultivator had no permanent interest to improve the soil by way of manuring, bunding, terracing of fields, etc. The result of this method of cultivation is reflected in large areas of fallow land noticed around most of the villages. Fortunately, by now, the practice of shifting cultivation is almost stopped and the people are now fairly settled in cultivation. However, the Bhils and other communities have still a tendency to change their dwellings on the slightest pretext such as death or any superstition. Much progress has been made in inculcating in the villagers the habit of settled life. The Dangs Development Board has done considerable work in this respect. At many places, villages have been provided with new colonies consisting of standard model houses for the Dangis. This has also led the villagers not to shift their cultivation.

Another interesting method of cultivation followed by Adivasi cultivators in the Dangs is what is known as *rab* cultivation. Every year, the farmer, in the plot selected for growing the seedlings spreads leaves, grass, etc., evenly and burns up this material. For this purpose, farmers are allowed to cut side branches, etc., from trees in protected forests subject to certain restrictions. This method is believed to destroy weeds and parasite roots in the land and to provide manure in the form of ashes. However, it is injurious to forest growth and the farmer can develop his agriculture even without resorting to this method by better cultivation and manure. But the Dangi farmers are most reluctant to change their agricultural methods.

The methods of cultivation followed in respect of some of the important crops is described below :

Ragi or *Nagli*—(*Elusine coracana*) is the staple food of the Dangis. It is a grain of great nutritive value, and is considered more sustaining for people doing hard physical work than any other grain. It can be grown as a dry crop as well as under irrigation. Unlike other crops, both the plant and the grain remain free from pests and diseases. Ragi grain can be stored for many years-even up to fifty years without damage, if kept away from moisture. The straw is considered a valuable food for the drought as well as milch animals.[2] The soil being lateritic becomes hard soon after the rainy season. As such the cultivator is not in a position to plough the land during summer with the indigenous plough. As a general practice, therefore, the land is tilled only after the first rainfall.

1. Campbell J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. XII, *Khandesh*, Bombay (1880), p. 601.

2. Randhawa M. S., *Agriculture and Animal Husbandry in India*, New Delhi, (1962), p. 118.

The ground cultivated for *nagli* is burnt before ploughing. It was a common belief among the Dangis that better crop was obtained when the land was allowed to remain fallow for a season or two and when *nagli* was preceded by a crop of *kharsani* (*Guizotia abyssinica*). The people, therefore, shifted their cultivation pretty frequently and practised rotational cultivation to get fresh soil and more abundant lopping close to, or on their fields. For these reasons, intensive cultivation on the same plot was not practised by the Dangis.

The methods of cultivation are still primitive wherein cultivators use cattle-driven wooden ploughs to cultivate patches of flat or undulating fields. Most of the Bhils still employ hand-ploughs merely scratching the top soil and if allowed will cultivate any steep area varying in extent from a few square yards to several acres.

After the receipt of the first rains, the seed beds are prepared with the help of spade (*pavda*) and pick-axe (*kodali*). The seed rate is generally 3 to 4 kg. per acre. They broadcast the seeds in the seed beds and mix them with the soil. Very few progressive cultivators use farm-yard manure and compost manure for seed beds. The weeds are removed as and when required.

The land is ploughed twice or thrice and after the seedlings are ready, they are transplanted at a distance of 4 to 6 cms., in the month of July. The seedlings are mostly broadcast and left to grow on their own. After transplanting, if there is no rainfall, seedlings mostly perish. The department, therefore, insists on line-sowing and transplanting. Generally no inter-culturing is done by cultivators. No chemical fertilizers are used for this crop.

Harvesting is mainly done in the month of November or December. The area under *ragi* covered 13,600 hectares in 1967-68.

Paddy (*Oriza Sativa*)—Methods of preparatory tillage and preparation of seed beds for paddy are the same as in *nagli*. The land is ploughed 4 to 5 times before sowing. Transplanting of the seedlings is done between July and mid-August. No inter-culturing is done. Weeding is done, as and when needed. Some progressive cultivators use farm-yard manure and fertilizers, in a limited dose for fear that the crops might attain too much height and fall down by the velocity of the wind. Harvesting is mainly done in the months of September and October, while threshing is done in October-November. The area under paddy covered 4,600 hectares in 1967-68.

Vari—The preparatory tillage is the same as in the case of *nagli*. Transplanting is done mainly during the months of July and August.

Weeding is done occasionally as and when required. Harvesting is done in the months of September and October. In the year 1967-68, *vari* covered an area of 4,824 hectares in the district.

Kharsani—The land is ploughed twice or thrice after the first rainfall. Seeds are broadcast and drilled at the rate of 2 to 3 kg. per acre. Sowing operations start during the month of June for kharif crops and in September and October for rabi. Fertilizers are not generally used. For kharif crop harvesting starts in October or November and for rabi in January or February.

Other crops cultivated in the tract include *kodra*, *tur*, *sama* or *banti* and *udid* besides *bajri*, wheat, *jowar*, maize, gram, potato and tobacco.

Fruits and Vegetables—As the soils are lateritic, and porous and having good drainage, the fruit trees like mangoes, *chiku*, guava, *kaju*, and *kagadi* limes thrive well. However, regular horticulture plantation is not carried out in the Dangs due to non-availability of irrigation. In future, the riverside areas can be regularly developed, if oil-engine and electric motor facilities are available to the cultivators. There is also a possibility for cultivating fruit trees like palms, litchies, etc.

Vegetables—Formerly, in the Dangs, vegetables were locally not grown and had to be brought from the plain areas of the Surat district. But now cultivators grow vegetables like ladies finger (*bhinda*), brinjals, chillies, red pumpkins and *karela*, etc., besides leafy vegetables like *tandalja*, *matalani bhaji*, cabbage, cauliflowers, etc. Potatoes are also grown on a trial basis. In river-bed areas, water melon (*tadbuch*), cucumber (*kakadi*), etc., are also grown.

The total area under fruits and vegetables was as small as 11 hectares in 1967-68.

Kharif and Rabi Crops

As seen earlier, the crops grown in the district mainly consist of coarse varieties, namely, *nagli*, *vari*, millets, etc. The crops, food and non-food, cultivated in the district can be grouped under two main heads, kharif and rabi but they are mostly kharif. The kharif or the rain-fed crops are sown in June-July and harvested in October-November. The rabi or winter crops are sown in November and harvested in February-March. The important kharif crops are paddy, *jowar*, *nagli* and *vari*, while rabi crops include wheat and pulses. Dependance on rainfall in the case of different crops is reflected in the fact that about 88 per cent of the area sown is under kharif and only about 12 per cent under rabi crops. The Dangis being still primitive cultivators are accustomed to raise one crop annually. The efforts of the

Department of Agriculture in the form of sanctioning subsidy, supply of improved seeds of rabi crops, fertilizer, etc., have now induced them to take second crops such as wheat, pulses and vegetables. During 1967-68, kharif crops occupied 42,526 hectares while rabi crops accounted for 6,000 hectares.

Crop Calendar

The calendar of agricultural operations for important crops in the district is given in the statement below :

Crops	Sowing months	Harvesting months
1 *Nagli*	.. July	September-October
2 Paddy	.. July	October-November
3 *Vari*	.. July	September-October
4 *Kharsani* (Niger seed)	July	November
5 *Udid*	.. July	November
6 Gram	.. November-December	February-March
7 *Banti*	.. July	September
8 Wheat	.. November-December	February-March
9 Groundnut	.. July	October-November
10 Sugar-cane	.. April-May	February-March
11 Chillies	.. June	November

The agricultural year commences in July and ends in June in the State.

Crop Prospects

As seen earlier, the district is peculiar in respect of its soil, irrigation and crop pattern. As the soil is undulating the rain water flows down soon after the rainfall. As a result, the soil does not retain water and moisture. Moreover, there are no irrigation dams and canals. As a result, irrigation facilities are almost negligible. It is, therefore, difficult in this tract to cultivate crops which require regular waterings. In spite of a good rainfall,

it is not possible to cultivate better varieties of foodgrains in this district for want of irrigation. However, there are some patches of land on the riverside which can be developed for cultivation of cash crops like sugar-cane, potatoes, etc. Minor irrigation works can be started at such places to provide irrigation to these crops. There is also scope to improve agricultural production by implementing soil conservation schemes. About 14,569 hectares of land are under inferior varieties of foodgrains. If this land is converted into *kyari* land, paddy can be cultivated there without difficulty. For this purpose, it is necessary to terrace hilly slopes and to plug nearby *nalas* so that water can be impounded and utilised for irrigating the paddy fields. On the recommendation of the Dangs Development Council, the Government of Gujarat has sanctioned in the year 1970 a scheme for soil conservation works. Under this scheme 4,047 hectares of land will be converted into *kyari* land within a period of five years at an estimated cost of Rs. 12 lakhs, annually. When this scheme is fully implemented, it may be possible to grow paddy on a large scale. Thus prospects for cultivation of sugar-cane, potatoes and paddy are bright in this district.

ACTIVITIES OF THE DEPARTMENT

Before Independence, agriculture in the Dangs was in a primitive stage. The Dangis tilled their lands with the help of hand-ploughs. The use of fertilizers, improved seeds and improved implements was totally unknown. The *Annual Administration Report of the Dangs* for the year 1902-03 observed: " Attempts have been made on a small scale to introduce a better class of crop. The result was encouraging but the experiment is in its infancy.' These experiments were continued in 1903-04. It was found that *jowar, bajri*, wheat, gram and several others could be successfully grown. In 1904-05, " potatoes, groundnuts, tomatoes and other crops were also cultivated. " A few of the Bhils possessed no bullocks and had to resort to *dali* cultivation. But this method of cultivation was rapidly dying out and ultimately became a thing of the past. The people started learning more civilized ways of preparing seed beds. Attempts were made to induce the Dangis to establish their villages near the fertile soils and to discontinue shifting cultivation. Mango and tamarind trees were planted to induce cultivators to stay thereon to reap their fruits. Gradually, several cultivators started damming up their rice fields. People began to settle willingly near the fertile soils, abandoning hilly, stony places or tracts with often insufficient water. In 1912, area under superior crops increased slowly. Liquor shop-keepers who formerly cultivated *nagli* took to superior crops in 1913. Groundnut was most successfully grown by the Dangis.

The acreage under superior crops, e. g., *mag, math, lang*, ginger, sesamum and castor which was 250 acres in 1914 and 500 acres in 1916 increased to 4,800 acres in 1925 and as much as 14,000 acres in 1940. The Dangs Diwan spared no pains in educating people in improved methods

of cultivation. Agricultural demonstrations were arranged every year. The people adopted the *chas* method of transplanting abandoning the primitive and haphazard methods of throwing the seedlings over the ploughed fields. The *chas* method of transplanting *nagli* was introduced in 1914 and was followed in 64 villages by July, 1916. The Kunbi cultivator was ready to take to superior crops but the Bhil was a little hesitant. However, the scarcity of *nagli* in 1917, resulted in his taking more interest in superior crops.

The Agricultural Kamgar under the general guidance of the Dangs Diwan prepared demonstration plots, constructed *bundhs* and arranged for the distribution of improved seeds to cultivators. Groundnut cultivation was discontinued in 1931 owing to damage by pigs. Rice of superior quality was introduced instead with very good results. The cultivation of fruit trees was encouraged and seedling plants of lemon, mango, plantain, etc., which were raised in the experimental garden at Ahwa by the Agricultural Kamgar were supplied free to selected cultivators in 1932.

From February (1940) onwards the Agricultural Kamgars worked under the guidance of the Village Uplift Officer. Dangs who was appointed from 18th February, 1940. In 1941 regular efforts were made by the Village Uplift Officer to induce the Dangis to construct *bundhs* and abandon their practice of shifting cultivation. An improved strain of wheat, Nipad 808, was distributed to selected cultivators in 1941.

Further attempts at changing the primitive agricultural practices were made in 1945 with the appointment of the Agricultural Officer.[1] In 1949, the Agriculture Department of the State Government took over this work and thence forward the work of bringing agricultural work on modern lines was started under the supervision of independent District Agricultural Officer. As a result, considerable progress was achieved during the first two Five Year Plans. During the period, various schemes of soil conservation, seed multiplication, demonstration farms, crop competitions, etc., were introduced to improve agriculture.

The main activities of the Agriculture Department in the Dangs after the merger consisted of (1) distribution of seeds, (2) distribution of fertilizers, (3) digging of compost pits and manure pits, (4) construction of bunds, (5) organisation of demonstration farms, (6) maintenance of irrigation farms, (7) livestock and poultry improvement, etc.

The tempo of these activities increased gradually. The Department now conducts various activities in addition to the above consisting of distribution of improved implements, subsidised supply of seeds and grafts, subsidised

1. *Administration Report for the Dangs*, 1944-45.

distribution of chemical fertilizers, agricultural research, etc. The work is done under the supervision of the District Agricultural Officer, who is also the Sub-Divisional Soil Conservation Officer. In 1969, two more posts of the Sub-Divisional Soil Conservation Officer were created to look after the enlarged schemes of soil conservation in the district.

PROGRESS OF SCIENTIFIC AGRICULTURE

To induce the cultivators, a number of schemes are being implemented by the Department of Agriculture.

1 *Crop Competitions*—A crop competition at district level is organised every year. However, the cultivators do not spontaneously participate in these competitions. During the Third Plan period Rs. 3,200 were sanctioned for this scheme of which less than Rs. 2,000 were spent.

2 *Subsidised Distribution of Fertilizers (50 per cent)*—As the cultivators are still orthodox they have to be induced to get better yield from their fields. For this purpose, a scheme has been introduced to supply fertilizers to the cultivators at 50 per cent subsidised rates from Block funds.

3 *Seed Multiplication Centre*—This centre situated at Davdahad multiplies important varieties of seeds of paddy, millet, *nagli, vari,* etc. These seeds are then distributed to selected cultivators. During the Third Plan about Rs. 30,000 were spent under this scheme.

4 *Distribution of Improved Implements*—Under this scheme, improved implements are supplied to cultivators at 50 per cent subsidised rates. Even then the advantage of the improved implements is not adequately taken by the Dangis because of their illiteracy and orthodox nature.

5 *Free Supply of Seeds and Grafts*—Seeds and grafts of fruits and vegetables are supplied free of charge to the Dangi cultivators under this scheme. The amount spent during the Third Plan was about Rs. 2,000.

The Japanese Method of Paddy Cultivation

There cannot be two opinions about the advantage of the Japanese method of paddy cultivation over other traditional methods of paddy cultivation. A beginning was made in the year 1954 to introduce the Japanese method and demonstrations were held on 38 plots selected from different parts of the district. In 1955-56, demonstrations were conducted on 80 plots. With a view to giving further impetus to this programme by propaganda and demonstrations one honorary social worker, who was also a leading

agriculturist, was appointed for a period of three months every year since 1956. As a result of these demonstrations and propaganda, an area of 51 hectares was brought under the Japanese method in the 1956-57 season. It was raised to 202 hectares in 1957-58. By the end of the Second Plan period about 1,214 hectares were brought under the Japanese method. Since then this practice has been mostly discontinued due to lack of irrigation facilities in the Dangs.

Agricultural Schools

During the Third Five Year Plan, one Agricultural School was established at Waghai for providing education in agriculture to Adivasis. The school had a capacity to accommodate 50 students. But it could never work with full capacity. The response from the Adivasis was poor. In the first year only 20 students were enrolled, among whom many were from outside the district. The Government felt that the purpose for which the school was established was not properly served. As a result, the school was closed in 1964-65, only four years after it was established.

The district has one Agricultural Research Station at Waghai which conducts research experiments in paddy and millet crops like *nagli, vari, banti,* etc. Improved seeds of these crops are supplied to the cultivators.

Model Farms

The district has no model farm. However, there is one nursery farm at Bhavandagad which supplies seeds and grafts to the Dangi cultivators. The farm is working since 1947-48.

A seed farm was established at Davdahad in the year 1963-64. Improved varieties of paddy, *nagli,* etc., are multiplied at this farm for distribution among the cultivators.

AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS

Agricultural implements in use before the introduction of the Five Year Plans consisted of a simple wooden plough, pick-axe, etc. After the introduction of the Five Year Plans, progressive cultivators have adopted improved implements, viz., the Baroda hoe, the Kisan plough, the Karjat hoe, the Jai Hind harrow, Paddy paddler, etc. The number of improved implements in use in the district during 1968-69 was 53. For the purchase of these implements, cultivators are given 50 per cent of the cost as subsidy. Besides these, other implements in use include simple tools like spades, sickles, etc. This being a rocky area, tractor ploughing on large scale is difficult.

The following statement compares some of the important implements in use in the district according to the Livestock Census of 1951, 1956, 1961 and 1966.

STATEMENT IV-4

Agricultural Implements in use during 1951, 1956, 1961 and 1966

Item	1951*	1956*	1961*	1966†
Ploughs	5,509	7,281	8,219	9,454
(i) Wooden	5,509	7,263	8,211	9,413
(ii) Iron	..	18	8	41
Carts	1,744	2,376	2,724	3,503
Sugar-cane crushers (Bullocks) ..	..	2	..	5
Oil-engines	..	3	8	15
Electric pumps	1	..	..	..
Ghanis	*1*	*1*	..	*4*
Persian wheels or *Rahats*	..	2	8	9

NOTE :

Information for the years 1951, 1956 and 1961 has been adjusted to the area of the district as constituted on 1st April, 1961.

Source :

* *District Census Handbook*, 1961, Dangs, p. 69.

† *Quarterly Bulletin of Economics and Statistics*, Vol. IX, No. 1, published by Bureau of Economics and Statistics, Government of Gujarat, Ahmedabad, (1969), pp. 180-181.

It will appear from the statement that use of improved implements like iron ploughs and oil-engines, has increased under the impact of the Five Year Plans. There was not a single iron plough in the district in 1951 before the introduction of the Plans. In 1966, the district had 41 iron ploughs. However, the wooden plough still holds the fort, as its number has also increased from 5,509 in 1951 to 9,413 in 1966. Thus, the iron plough has not been able to replace the wooden plough because of its cheapness and manoeuvrability. These facts indicate that the use of ploughs, wooden and iron, is on the increase. The use of bullock carts has more than doubled during the period between 1951 and 1966 due to the increased forest operations. The oil-engines have similarly increased from 3 in 1956 to 15 in 1966. The same is the case with the Persian wheels or *Rahats* which have increased from 2 in 1956 to 9 in 1966, as irrigation in the district is primarily by wells. It thus appears that the Dangis are gradually heading towards settled and improved methods of cultivation.

SEED SUPPLY

As a general practice, most of the Dangis keep a reserve stock of the produce and use it for seed in the next season. Before 1947, improved varieties of seeds were unknown in the Dangs. They came to be known after introduction of the Five Year Plans in 1951. A Paddy Research Sub-Centre was started at Bhavandagad in 1952 and shifted to Waghai in May 1954. A Regional Research Centre for inferior crops was also started in 1964.

Besides, there are three Government farms, one each at (i) Bhavandagad which supplies the graft plants of mangoes, (ii) Davdahad which multiplies improved varieties of seeds and supplies them to the cultivators through societies, and (iii) Rambhas, which carries out research in paddy and millet crops and evolves varieties suitable to this area.

Distribution of improved seeds was undertaken from the commencement of the First Plan. During the Second Plan period improved seeds weighing 12,280 kg. were distributed. During the Third Plan period, improved seeds weighing 65,840 kg. were distributed covering an area of 2,785 hectares. Improved seeds of different varieties distributed are given in the following table.

(AREA COVERED IN HECTARES)

Sl. No.	Name of variety	1967-68	1968-69	1969-70
1	Rice Kada 176.12 and 2.31	409 121	439 9	455 51
2	Paddy Formosa-3	4	20	10
3	Paddy I. R.8	.	2	6
4	Paddy Masuri	..	..	6
5	*Nagli* B-11	62	28	99
6	*Vari*-10	4	25	63
7	Groundnut-Samarala (Punjab-1)	2	4	91
8	Hybrid Maize	9	6	2
9	Vegetable Seeds	..	..	245

Source :
District Agricultural Officer, Ahwa.

The largest area under improved seeds is claimed by rice followed by *nagli* and *vari*, the staple food of the Dangis. The Department of Agriculture has encouraged the cultivators to grow improved seeds of vegetables which covered 245 hectares.

ROTATION OF CROPS

Generally no definite rotation of crops is followed, but wheat and gram are taken after paddy.

MANURES AND FERTILIZERS

Local Manures—The livestock population in the Dangs is large enough to produce farm-yard manure required for agricultural purposes. Wherever there are large flocks of goats and herds of bullocks, cows and buffaloes, the farmers get the land manured with their urine and excreta. The cultivators supplement their local supply by collecting cattle dung manure and refuse from surrounding villages. About 818 tonnes of rural compost were thus made available to the Dangis in 1969-70.

Fertilizers—Chemical fertilizers were unknown to the Dangis before the introduction of the Five Year Plans. Even at present, they are not in use to any appreciable extent in the Dangs. A few progressive cultivators have realised the importance of fertilizers, while most of the Dangis are reluctant to use the fertilizers. They believe that crop will ripen heavily and fall down if fertilizer is used. Apart from this superstition the poor Dangis are not able to use these fertilizers due to their high price. The following figures indicate the distribution of fertilizers in the Dangs.

Distribution of Fertilizers, 1966-67 to 1969-70

(QUANTITY IN TONNES)

Year	Ammonium Sulphate	Super Phosphate	Diammonium Phosphate
1966-67	4	15	..
1967-68	5	7	..
1968-69	12	8	..
1969-70	8	9	5

Source :

District Agricultural Officer, Ahwa.

AGRICULTURAL PESTS AND DISEASES

Pests like Mashi or Molo, (the aphids) is a wide-spread pest of different species affecting many crops in the district in different seasons. Some species are more common in kharif season and attack maize, vegetable and groundnut, while others which are found in rabi season attack cabbage, cauliflower, onion, etc. This soft bodied insect sucks the sap of leaf by mouth. The infection is generally more on the lower surface than on the upper one. The aphids are controlled by dusting benzene hexacloride.

Swarming caterpillars generally attack paddy and other crops, which are controlled by dusting benzene hexacloride.

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

Cattle is the main asset of the Dangis. The Dangis count their wealth more in terms of cattle they possess than in terms of land they cultivate. Cattle has since served as the medium of exchange and an instrument of barter. Rich as the district is in the growth of grass, the Dangis do not find it difficult to feed their cattle. There is super abundance of grass, only a fraction of which is cut and preserved by the people for their cattle. The Dangi breed of cattle is a sturdy and stocky breed and is noted for its skewbald colouring. It is well suited to the hilly country but the milk out-turn of the cows is very disappointing.

Every Dangi family has at least a cow and a pair of bullocks which perform a variety of functions. As agriculture is not mechanised to any extent, bullocks provide the principal drought power needed for agriculture and carting timber. Bullocks are mainly used as a beast of burden to draw agricultural implements, to carry out agricultural operations, to carry wood from forest, etc. It is reported that a Dangi can thus earn about Rs. 10 every day with the help of his bullocks. Buffaloes are rarely found in the Dangs, and are used as beast of burden. As regards goats, their number has increased only recently. In the past, the Dangis were not encouraged to breed goats, as they caused great harm to forest growth. No Dangi villager was allowed to have more than one goat to every five heads of cattle possessed by him.[1]

The improvement of livestock constitutes an important aspect of rural development. The programme for improvement of livestock includes schemes aimed at eradication of diseases prevalent in the livestock, provision of expanded veterinary facilities, development and improvement of local breeds, development of the poultry farming, etc.

Wealthy cultivators of the district maintain cattle in large numbers but the breeding aspect is neglected. The Dangi breed, with black and white spots, is very famous throughout the country and in order to increase this breed, pedigree bulls are distributed among groups of villages.

The programme of development of animal husbandry will not be complete unless it provides adequate veterinary aid and facilities. There was only one veterinary dispensary in the Dangs at Ahwa during the pre-merger days. This was inadequate looking to the large number of cattle in this area which is almost equal to human population. To provide more

1. Political Standing Order File, (1940-41).

veterinary aid, the Government expanded the activities of the Department into the interior areas by opening more centres. As the veterinary dispensary at Ahwa was not in position to meet the growing demand for timely veterinary aid, three veterinary aid-centres were established in 1955-56 at Shamgahan, Pipaldahad and Kalibel.

In addition to the activities mentioned above, the district will be benefitted by some of the State schemes like control of fluke diseases, immunization of cattle against contagious diseases, availability of larger supply of sera and vaccines.

According to the Livestock Census of 1951, 1956, 1961 and 1966, the cattle population of the district is found to be distributed as under :

STATEMENT IV-5

Livestock 1951, 1956, 1961 and 1966

Categories of livestock 1	1951* 2	1956* 3	1961* 4	1966† 5
Total livestock	**43,172**	**61,521**	**70,028**	**75,919**
A Bullocks and cows ..	35,768	48,504	52,907	55,996
(i) Males over three years	12,267	15,351	17,312	19,890
(ii) Females over three years (in milk)	13,689 (9,942)	15,876 (5,678)	17,388 (5,555)	18,234 (17,778)
(iii) Young-stock ..	9,812	17,277	18,207	17,872
B Buffaloes	2,079	3,414	4,191	5,253
(i) Males over three years	750	1,387	2,177	3,132
(ii) Females over three years (in milk)	797 (594)	1,151 (469)	1,193 (438)	1,292 (1,219)
(iii) Young-stock ..	532	876	821	829
C Sheep	48	174	135	112
D Goats	5,158	9,298	12,667	14,456
E Horses and ponies ..	31	83	70	24
F Donkeys	88	48	58	63
G Pigs	..	..	..	15
Total Poultry	**27,745**	**59,039**	**46,989**	**49,964**

NOTE :

Information for the years 1951, 1956 and 1961 has been adjusted to the area of the district as constituted on 1st April, 1961.

Source :

* *District Census Handbook*, 1961, Dangs, p. 69.

† *Quarterly Bulletin of Economics and Statistics*, Vol. IX, No. 1, Bureau of Economics and Statistics, Government of Gujarat, Ahmedabad, (1969), pp. 120-121.

On the whole, there has been an all-round increase in the livestock population of the district, from 43,172 in 1951 to 61,521 in 1956 and again to 70,028 in 1961 and 75,919 in 1966, registering an overall increase of 75·85 per cent in 15 years, i. e., from 1951 to 1966. The number of bullocks and cows has increased to 55,996 in 1966 from 35,768 in 1951. Similarly, the number of buffaloes has increased to 5,253 in 1966 from 2,079 in 1951. There is a more significant increase in the number of goats from 5,158 in 1951 to 14,456 in 1966. The number of milch cows has increased from 9,942 in 1951 to 17,778 in 1966. Against such increases horses and ponies and donkeys have decreased in numbers.

Animal Diseases

Cattle diseases are very serious obstacles to the cattle development. The chief diseases prevalent in the district are black quarter (anthrax), rinder-pest, foot and mouth disease, surra, etc. Anthrax, otherwise known as black quarter, is considered the most fatal form of fever. Both rinder-pest and anthrax are very contagious. The animals afflicted with these diseases seldom survive. Most of these diseases which were wide-spread in the past have been now brought under control. As the prophylactic remedies have been found, these diseases have now become less fatal. Preventive vaccination has been discovered in order to control the diseases. In spite of these, in 1968-69. 326 animals were affected by various diseases. which claimed a toll of 98 lives. The following statement shows the attacks and deaths under various diseases prevalent in the district.

STATEMENT IV-6

Animal Diseases Recorded, 1968-69

Sl. No.	Name of the disease	Cattle		Goat		Total	
		Attacks	Deaths	Attacks	Deaths	Attacks	Deaths
1	Anthrax	33	22	..	..	33	22
2	Rinder-pest	63	21	..	..	63	21
3	Foot and mouth	164	Nil	..	..	164	Nil
4	Surra	25	15	..	.	25	15
5	Contagious caprine pleuro pneumonia	..	..	41	40	41	40
	Total	285	58	41	40	326	98

Source :
District Animal Husbandry Officer, Ahwa.

From the above statement, it appears that in the case of goats, the contagious caprine pleuro pneumonia disease has proved almost fatal. The other diseases of anthrax, rinder-pest and surra are controlled to a great extent by the veterinary treatment. Such treatment is a complete success in the case of foot and mouth disease.

Veterinary Aid

As livestock plays a vital part in the agricultural economy, improvement in the quality of their breed is a matter of great importance. In order to improve the existing cattle, the Government has recently sanctioned two schemes, i. e., (i) the scheme for supply of 10 premium bulls every year at subsidised rates and (ii) the scheme for supply of 20 cows of pure Kankrej breed to approved Dangi cultivators at Government cost. Between 1960-61 and 1967-68, 26 premium bulls and 100 cows of the Kankrej breed were supplied to the Dangi cultivators for improvement of cattle.

The Government established one artificial insemination centre at Ahwa in 1958. During the Second Plan period, 36 pedigree bulls were supplied to various centres in the district to improve the breed of cattle. Although the centre was well equipped with all facilities the scheme did not evoke adequate response from the Dangis. As a result, the centre was shifted from Ahwa and was merged with the centre at Surat in the year 1968-69.

At present, there is one veterinary dispensary at Ahwa, where a qualified doctor is posted. In all, 8 first-aid veterinary centres are established at different places. These centres are in charge of stockmen. A mobile van has also been provided for the treatment of animals in the interior parts of the district.

Poultry

The Dangis are fond of fowls and eggs. Poultry development as an allied or subsidiary occupation has, therefore, vast potentialities. The food value of eggs is also equally important. It is in realization of these two important factors that scientific poultry keeping has been progressively introduced in several villages of the district. In 1951-52, poultry development activities were undertaken for the first time with the stock of 27 birds. In 1952-53, 6 Dangi students were sent out for training in poultry farming to Dhulia (West Khandesh) with a scholarship of Rs. 30 per month.

The Poultry Farm-*cum*-Breeding Centre at Ahwa was started in 1952. This farm has supplied cocks of different varieties to the villages for the breeding purpose. In many villages, these improved varieties have replaced the mongrel birds and there are now a good number of villages like Malegaon, Dhaylidod, Bhavandagad, etc., which can boast of a good flock of

improved birds yielding handsome income to their keepers. Supplementing the State programmes of poultry development, nationwide poultry improvement programme has been formulated by the Central Government with the object of increasing the production of eggs and poultry meat.

According to the Livestock Census of 1966, the total poultry population in the district was 43,964. To improve the local breed, the Department has started two schemes ; (i) a poultry farm and (ii) the poultry extension work. In the poultry farm at Ahwa, 106,688 eggs were produced between 1966 and 1969. One co-operative poultry farm also functions at Waghai.

Under the poultry extension work, cocks, hatching eggs and day-old chicks are supplied free and subsidy is given for construction of poultry cages and equipment.

FORESTS[1]

The Dangis depend on forest from the cradle to the grave. For their food, fuel, house-building material or grazing cattle, they depend on forest and forest products. They eke out their livelihood by forest labour.

By nature, a sportsman and free-lancer at heart, the Dangi is never eager to do hard manual labour for the sake of wages. However, during the early administration of the tract, the Dangis were coaxed and driven to take to work as a result of which they now take large share in all forest works like felling, fashioning, dragging, timber working and other innumerable operations. The Dangi is a fair workman who is in great demand for forest works but the Dangis are not available in adequate number all the year round.

The Dangs district abounds in forest which occupy nearly 95 per cent of its total area. It is extremely rich in timber as most of the trees are teak of high quality. The total area under forests is 1,697 sq. kms. of which reserved forests occupy 898 sq. kms. and protected forests 799 sq. kms. The reserved forests are separated from the protected forests by a demarcation line which is 1,055 sq. kms. in length

The reserved forests are mostly relegated to the larger and difficult hills with poor soils, while the protected forests occupy the easier hillocks, plateaux and flattened and undulating low-lying areas generally with richer and deeper soils. The protected forests have been subjected to intermittent and rotational cultivation. In the reserved forests, neither lopping nor timber-cutting is allowed. To a very large extent, the areas in the protected forests are either under cultivation and lopping or under lopping alone. In the

1. KHANCHANDANI M. S., *Draft Working Plan for Dangs Forests*, Vol. I, (1966).

areas that are under cultivation and lopping, the tree growth has obviously disappeared to a considerable extent.

In the reserved forests the teak forms about 30 per cent of the total tree growth from 30 cms. girth upwards. 53·8 per cent of these trees are between 120 cms. to 150 cms. girth. Other superior timber species, namely, *shisham*, *tiwas*, *bio*, *khair* and *sadad* together form 13·2 per cent of the growing stock. *Shisham* forms about 1·66 per cent of the entire tree growth, *tiwas* about 3·79 per cent, *bio* (which is the stoutest fire resister in the forest) 0·36 per cent, *khair* 1·43 per cent and *sadad* (which is the commonest of the first class junglewoods) 5·98 per cent of the entire tree growth.

Many other tree species found in these forests have some timber value. Important among them are *hed*, *kalam*, *kanti*, *nano bondaro*, *kilai* and *siris*. *Hed* is the biggest tree in the forest forming 1·32 per cent of the growing stock. Many of these trees are over 150 cms. in girth. The remainder in the growing stock form ordinary junglewoods. *Kakad* and *modad* form the bulk of this category making upto 10·88 per cent. *Pongara*, *papado*, *waring*, *nimbaro*, *petar*, *varas* and *gol* are fast-growing soft woods which occupy quite some space in these forests. These seven species together form 2·34 per cent of the growing stock. *Manvel* bamboos are plentiful in the whole of the western Dangs. *Katas* keeps mostly to moisture soils in a few valleys.

In 1926, it was observed that regeneration of teak was good, often copious.[1] However, in 1966, it was found that natural regeneration of teak in reserved forest was very poor and most undependable.[2] Natural regeneration of other species especially those which could not tolerate overhead shade was also found meagre. It was absent in protected forests which are under regular cultivation. However, in the areas not under cultivation, natural regeneration comes up fairly well as these are normally free from annual fires.

Impediments to Forest Growth

Several factors injurious to the growth of the forest are grouped under the following cotegories ; (i) man, (ii) cultivation and lopping, (iii) illicit cutting, (iv) fires, (v) domestic animals, (vi) wild animals, (vii) insects and (viii) natural agencies like erosion, drought, frost and cyclonic winds.

(i) *Man*—Man is the worst of all the agencies, who causes injury to the forest through cultivation, lopping, illicit cutting, etc.

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1. Marjoribanks G. E., *Working Plan for the Dangs Forests*, (1926).
2. Khanchandani M S., *Draft Working Plan for Dangs Forests*, Vol. I, (1966).

(ii) *Cultivation and Lopping*—So far, man has not caused any direct injury to the reserved forest but his depredations in the protected forest by way of cultivation and uncontrolled lopping have left indelible marks on the density and quality of the growth. The effective area under the tree-clad protected forest is fast decreasing. Bamboos have become already extinct from almost all protected forests and for meeting domestic needs in respect of bamboos, reserved forests have to be tapped. Almost all trees of over 90 cms. in girth in the protected forests were unsound, defective and hollow, according to the Working Plan of 1966.

(iii) *Illicit Cutting*—Till recently serious theft of timber was unknown and even petty pilfering was not common. The tendency of illicit cutting especially of teak timber, is now on the increase in these forests, due to its very high market demand. However, because of very few exits from which forest produce can be removed outside the Dangs and due to the liberal privileges and concessions available to the local populace, offences of illicit cuttings are still not many. From the data of recorded offences it will be seen that tendency towards illicit cutting had increased much between 1953-54 and 1965-66. Most of the offences listed are those of illicit cutting.

Offences Recorded in the Dangs Forests

Year		No. of offences detected	No. of offences apprehended	Amount of value and compensation recovered (in Rs.)		
				Value	Compensation	Total
1		2	3	4	5	6
1953-54	..	151	98	..	1,483	1,483
1964-65	..	294	481	2.266	1,493	3,759
1965-66	..	372	372	9,076	5,782	14,858
1966-67	..	291	291	5,884	5,010	10,894
1967-68	..	128	128	1.582	1,968	3,550
1968-69	..	91	91	1,953	1.474	3,427

The above statistics show that from 151 offences in 1953-54, the number increased to 372 in 1965-66 However, it declined to 91 in 1968-69 due to the effective measures taken by the authority.

(iv) *Fires*—There are no natural fires and accidental fires are rare. Most of the fires are caused by human agency, either by hunters or cultivators or by the graziers who ignite fires in the forests for their own purposes and not with intention to set the forests to fire. The forests of the Dangs for most part of the year are very dry. Dead and dry bamboos, leaf, litter and tall dry grass and *karvi* make them highly inflammable and vulnerable to fire damage. Therefore, once the fire takes place it tends to

spread over. The artificially raised young plantations are generally not affected or damaged by such fires but the young crop of natural regeneration in the other parts do get damaged. Annually about 6,000 hectares in maximum of the forest areas get burnt due to such fires inspite of all the measures of fire protection, viz., taking fire lines, maintaining fire stations, etc.

(v) *Domestic Animals*—The total livestock population in the Dangs was 76,000 in 1966. Taken by itself, this figure does not appear to be a large one for the extensive protected forests in the division. But there is great demand for grazing from outside the Dangs especially from above the *ghat* areas in the adjoining Maharashtra State. Many heads of cattle from outside enter the Dangs stealthily, under the guise of local cattle and cause considerable damage to forests. It will be advisable to stop this influx effectively especially during the monsoon. It may be mentioned that similar menace was faced in the twenties when heads of cattle from outside the Dangs were not allowed to camp in the district during the rains. It is also necessary to prescribe measures to regulate grazing in the areas bearing young crop. However, if there is not much of grazing from the outside cattle, the pressure of grazing from the local cattle in the reserved forests will remain negligible because of the extensive protected forests and short-lived seasonal cultivation.

(vi) *Wild Animals*—Wild animals that cause damage to forests are deer, porcupines and rodents, monkeys, sambars and pigs.

(vii) *Insects*—Damage from certain insects is widespread and extensive in these forests, but the plants are not killed out-right except sometimes in the seedling stage. Due to this reason, the damage is difficult to estimate. Following are some of the important insects causing noticeable damage to the forest.

(a) *Climbers*—Climbers and creepers abound in the forest especially in the better stocked areas. They do more injury than all other natural causes put together. Incidence of this damage is considerable in low-lying moist valleys and flattened areas. Most destructive amongst them are Velabivla, Palasvel and Nandanvel. Some attention is paid to their eradication in the areas which come under some sort of working, but they do much harm to the tree growth in the remaining areas, especially to the sapling and pole crop in old plantations.

(b) *Weeds*- -They inhibit natural regeneration and affect the tree growth, Stray plants of Kargol or Ghaneri (*Lantana-camara*) are also noticed in the protected forests.

(viii) *Other Natural Agencies--Erosion*—The rainfall in the Dangs is heavy and erratic. There have been instances when an annual average precipitation is received in a single month. The cumulative effect of all

these factors is the accelerated velocity of the flowing water during the monsoon resulting in washing away of the topmost fertile soil. However, due to hard nature of rock and almost continuous vegetative cover over most of the area, damage from erosion has not been perceptible in the past. With more and unsuitable area coming under cultivation without adopting any measures of soil conservation, erosion is on the increase. This can be clearly seen in the immense quantity of silt and soil going down the *nalas* and rivers with the onset of rains. It is desirable that no cultivation should be allowed along the slopes unless the fields are contour-bunded.

Drought and Frost—Rainfall in the Dangs though moderately heavy is short-lived. Moreover, precipitation is often erratic. Long periods of dry spell are not unknown. However, severe drought is not common and the damage from drought is negligible except that at times, plantations get delayed and young transplants get killed. Severe damage from this cause is not on record.

Severe frost does not occur in the tract. However, there have been instances when mild frosts of short duration have occurred and have caused considerable damage to young crop especially young plantations. Damage from this cause is, however, not very serious.

Cyclonic Winds—Severe damage by cyclonic winds is practically unknown in this tract. Certain amount of damage by uprooting the shallow rooted trees and breaking of the tops and branches of trees is almost an annual feature. The damage caused is only sporadic and negligible.

FOREST PRODUCE

Forest produce available from the Dangs can be divided into two categories, (i) major forest produce and (ii) minor forest produce. The former includes products like timber, firewood, charcoal and industrial woods; while the latter comprises bamboos, grass, gums, fruits, flowers, honey, lac, leaves, barks, medicinal plants, etc.

(i) *Major Forest Produce*—Till recently the timbers most in demand were teak, *tiwas*, *sadad*, *bio*, *khair*, *kanti*, *hed*, *kalam* and *shiwan* and limited quantity of *siris* and *kilai*. Of late, because of the rising industrial tempo and large-scale constructional works under the Five Year Plans, there has developed a very brisk demand for both big and small size timber of many other species also.

Timber, charcoal and firewood from these forests are removed to Waghai, Songadh, Navapur, Bilimora and Bulsar for final disposal. Bamboo is finally disposed at Waghai and Songadh to the Central Paper Mills Ltd.

Ultimate market for most of the timber and bamboos is North Gujarat, Saurashtra and Bombay. Since late, sizeable quantity of timber is purchased directly by the Railways and other Government Departments from Government timber depots at Waghai and Songadh. Charcoal and firewood are consumed in nearby big towns and villages of South Gujarat and surplus quantities are exported to Bombay. Surplus grass from the forests is consumed in the hardboard factory at Bilimora.

Teak timber of all sizes is in demand. *Khair* ranks with teak due to very limited quantity available in the market. *Shisham, bio* and other timbers also attract many purchasers. Even inferior woods like *kakad, modad, nimbaro, behedo, bondaro,* etc., which till recently were rejected and were left over in the forest, have now found a market.

In the present market conditions, both big and small size timber of many species, charcoal and firewood, have heavy demand. The prices of these commodities have reached a peak and may show slightly upward trend due to increasing developmental activities under the Five Year Plans.

The local demand is limited to small size teak for building houses, agricultural implements, etc. There is little demand for firewood and charcoal for local consumption.

Khair is useful for manufacture of *katha* (catechu) and tannin. All trees felled annually down to 60 cms. girth are allotted to the *katha* manufacturing companies in Gujarat. Apart from the *khair* trees available for felling in the annual coupes, there is special exploitation of this species whereby 3,000 *khair* trees of and over 90 cms. in girth are felled annually for meeting the demands of the *katha* factories.

(ii) *Minor Forest Produce*—Large number of bamboos are required for domestic consumption, e. g., in house construction, fencing and for articles such as baskets, mats, *tatties,* etc. Since the establishment of the Central Paper Mills Ltd. at Fort Songadh, the Dangs bamboo is supplied to the Mills for preparing paper pulp. Dangi bamboos find their way upto Bombay and practically all over Gujarat.

The important grasses in these forests are Bhatado and Potado which are relished by the cattle. Others are less nutritious. Most of the grasses are cut and exported to Bilimora for industrial use there. Rosha grass grows on the higher slopes and flat tops of the high hill along the eastern boundary of the Dangs and also on the top of the Rupgadh hill near Bardipada. Rosha oil is prepared therefrom for use in manufacture of scents and medicines.

Other minor forest products include gum *kadaya*, which is extracted from *kadaya* tree, *bidi* leaves both *ashitro* and *timru*, *baru*, *karvi*, oilseeds like *karani* and *doli*, flowers of *mahuda*, bark of *chilur*, honey, wax, horns, skins, etc.

Forests of the Dangs were taken on lease by the Government of Bombay in 1842 for supplying the timber to the Bombay Dock Yard. The object of Government in obtaining these leases was to obtain "a direct control of the Dangs forest and purchase the proprietory rights in the wood.". With these leases, Government obtained not only forest rights but the right to tax all articles from the forest. These leases were renewed in 1862 and were terminated with effect from 1st April, 1937, on the recommendation of the Government of India.

The paramount interests of the Government in the Dangs territory were those of the forests. For this reason, it was thought proper to appoint a Forest Officer for the direct administration of the forest area. With this purpose in view the post of the Divisional Forest Officer was created in the Dangs in the year 1902. The Divisional Forest Officer was invested with the powers of a first class Magistrate. He was empowered to exercise these rights not only in forest matters but also in respect of all other matters including breaches of the Abkari Act. His main duty was to determine the areas within which the Bhil chieftains and the tribes should have full liberty to cultivate, to prescribe such privileges in other areas, etc. The main object of his appointment was to bring home to the chieftains the terms and conditions of the forest leases.

SET-UP OF THE DEPARTMENT

Till bifurcation of the bilingual Bombay State, there was only one Divisional Forest Officer in the Dangs. The working of coupes was carried out partly through the agency of contractors and partly through forest labourers' co-operative societies on logging basis. This was replaced by departmental agency in 1960. With the object of increasing the scope of departmental working gradually so as to cover the entire division, one post of Additional Divisional Forest Officer was thereafter created along with the requisite number of Range Forest Officers, Foresters and other incidental staff.

At present there are 8 normal ranges under the Divisional Forest Officer, Dangs, viz., Waghai, Pimpri, Ahwa, Shamgahan, Subir, Pipalaidevi, Bardipada and Bheskatri. The number of Range Forest Officers under the Additional Divisional Forest Officer varies depending on the number of coupes taken up for departmental working every year. Every coupe is put in charge of one Logging Forester who is provided with subordinate staff consisting of guards and *mukadams* to supervise working of the coupe.

FOREST DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES

About a dozen schemes of forest development are at present in operation in the Dangs district. They mainly relate to plantation of teak, *khair* and bamboo trees, establishment of wet nurseries, a botanical garden, development of forest communications, etc. The development of the forest was initiated during the year 1950-51, when the schemes for development of forest communications and for construction of buildings were taken up. The work of forest development, however, received impetus during the Second Plan period, when 7 new schemes were undertaken which included schemes for teak and bamboo plantation, agave plantation, establishment of research stations and mobile squad, revision of the Working Plan, etc. The scheme for planting fast growing species and establishing a botanical garden were taken up in the Third Plan. The total expenditure incurred in the implementation of these schemes during the Three Plan periods was over Rs. 21 lakhs. The scheme-wise details about the expenditure incurred and the targets achieved are given in the statement below :

STATEMENT IV-7

Forest Development Schemes in the Dangs

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	Year of starting	Target achieved since beginning till the end of Third Plan period	Expenditure incurred during the period mentioned in Col. 4	Target achieved from 1966-67 to 1968-69		Remarks
					Physical	Financial	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
				Rs.		Rs.	
1	Development of forest communication	1950-51	74 kms. (roads)	790,210	Improvement 20 kms. Metalling 12 kms.	533,986	In operation
2	Construction of buildings ..	1950-51	70 quarters	611,070	21 buildings	213,164	do.
3	Teak plantation .	1956-57	2,078 hectares	401,660	821 hectares	367,182	do.
4	Establishment of wet nursery	1958-57	Purchase of one diesel engine, 8 nurseries in 8 hectares and raised various kinds of plants for *van-mahotsav*	70,759	..	..	Dropped from 1966-67
5	Agave plantation .	1956-57	307 kms.	232,421	..	..	do.
6	Research station and raising of garden	1958-59	Established research station	26,636	..	..	Implemented during Third Plan
7	Plantation of bamboos ..	1960-61	101 hectares	9,041	146 hectares	49,321	In operation
8	Revision of working plans ..	1960-61	Working plan completed during Third Plan	133,750	..	..	..

STATEMENT IV·7—*concld.*

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	Year of starting	Target achieved since beginning till the end of Third Plan period	Expenditure incurred during the period mentioned in Col. 4	Target achieved from 1966-67 to 1968-69		Remarks
					Physical	Financial	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
				Rs.		Rs.	
9	Establishment of mobile squad	1960-61	Staff appointed	30,495	..	..	..
10	Fast growing species ..	1963-64	40 hectares	..	20 hectares	360	Dropped from 1967-68
11	Establishment of botanical garden	1964-65	Established botanical garden at Waghai	50,084	Garden works	240,920	In operation
12	*Khair* plantation ..	1966-67	..	..	146 hectares	61,399	do.
13	Establishment of Planning and Statistical cell ..	1968-69	..	..	Staff appointed	6,918	do.

Source :
Divisional Forest Officer, Dangs, Ahwa.

Considerable progress has been recorded under the schemes for teak and bamboo plantations, development of forest communications, construction of buildings, etc. By the end of the Third Plan, teak plantations covered over 2,000 hectares of forest area. Over 100 hectares were covered under bamboo plantations and about 40 hectares under other fast growing plantations. The highest expenditure under any single scheme has been recorded under the scheme of development of forest communications which cost about Rs. 8 lakhs during the Three Plan periods and over Rs. 5 lakhs thereafter, between 1966 and 1969. Under the scheme of construction of buildings, 70 quarters were built by the end of the Third Plan to provide accommodation to the staff stationed in the interior areas of the forest at a total cost of over Rs. 6 lakhs. Another 21 quarters were built between 1966 and 1969 at a cost of Rs. 2·13 lakhs. The scheme of the botanical garden was initiated in 1964-65. An area of 60 acres of land near Waghai at Rambhas has been acquired for developing the botanical garden. The land has been cleared and levelled. The work relating to road construction, construction of pipe-lines, purchase of seeds, etc., is already over. By now, about Rs. 3 lakhs are spent on this scheme which is continued in the Fourth Five Year Plan.

Forest Labour Co-operative Societies

Prior to Independence, the work of felling the trees in forest coupes was entrusted to contractors who exploited forest labourers and earned huge profits. However, after Independence, it was decided to stop the exploitation of poor Adivasi labourers by forest contractors. For this purpose, forest labour co-operative societies were formed with the sole objective of gradually eliminating the forest contractors from the forest operations. The idea underlying such societies was not only to give the Adivasi labourers full wages along with a share in the profits, but also to train them gradually to take the responsibility of conducting forest and other business through co-operatives.

Forest labour co-operatives were first started in 1947 in the former Bombay State by the late Shri B. G. Kher, Chief Minister. He felt that the exploitation of tribals could be minimised if forest coupes were given to the forest co-operatives instead of to the contractors. Accordingly, such co-operatives were started in the forest areas of the former Bombay State. In view of the success of the forest labour co-operatives in the Bombay State other States in India followed suit.

In the Dangs, the first forest labour co-operative society was set up in 1949 as a result of the efforts made by the social workers like Shri Ramjibhai Tuljibhai Patel and Shri Jugatrambhai Dave. Six more societies were registered the next year in 1950. in six ranges in the Dangs. They started functioning from 1951. The forest co-operatives in the district

of Dangs passed through rough weather. On account of financial irregularities, six societies had to be liquidated in 1954. But this gave free reins to the contractors in exploitation of the tribals. As a result, Government again thought of reviving forest co-operatives for checking exploitation of the Dangis. As many as twenty societies were formed within two years of 1957 and 1958. But of them, 19 forest co-operative societies were wound up in 1962 on account of the situation arising out of the territorial reorganisation. Even the two surviving societies did not function effectively and were in doldrums. This was another serious blow from which the societies could not recover for the next five years, i. e., upto 1967. During this quinquennium, the work was either carried on departmentally or entrusted to the forest contractors. However, in 1967, the two societies which were almost in a morbid state were activised and two more were registered in the next year (1968). The year 1969 was very important in the history of the co-operative movement in the Dangs, when the *Raniparaj Seva Sabha, Vedchhi* and *Sarva Seva Sangh, Bilimora* were recognised as sponsoring agencies by the Government. As a result, seven forest labour co-operative societies were registered and one more society which had gone into liquidation was revived. By the end of 1969, the total number of forest labour co-operative societies was 12 in the district. The coupes are given to the co-operatives on a logging basis.

Famines

The district receives heavy rainfall varying from 200 cms. to 250 cms. from the south-west monsoon wind between June and October every year. According to the Report of the Fact Finding Committee for Survey of Scarcity Areas in Bombay State (1960), the district has not suffered from scarcity as there is heavy rainfall all over the Dangs.

However, the Annual Adminisration Reports of the Dangs reveal that the district did experience scarcity due to poor rainfall. The rainfall was recorded as 'poor' and 'deficient' in 1907-08 and in 1911-12. In 1920-21, only 49 inches of rainfall was recorded as against the past average of nearly 67 inches. The *Administration Report* of 1926-27 recorded that "due to failure of later rains in 1925 and to the late arrival of the monsoon in 1926, there was acute scarcity of water for men and beasts."

Again the *Annual Administration Report* for 1942-43 noted, "The monsoon of the year 1942 was not a satisfactory one from the cultivators point of view. The annawari ranged from 6 annas to 8 annas, which is distinctly below the average of the normal year. Owing to poor crops, scarcity conditions, as was the case last year again prevailed in the Dangs."

The district experienced scarcities recently during the year 1966-67 and 1967-68. To provide relief to the people of the Dangs, famine relief measures

were organised by the Government. The amount spent in the famine relief was Rs. 87 lakhs in 1966-67 and Rs. 1·68 lakhs in 1967-68. Further, the employment provided by the Central Paper Mills Ltd., Fort Songadh to the Dangis enabled them to withstand the dire effects of these scarcity years.

CHAPTER V

INDUSTRIES

OLD-TIME INDUSTRIES

The entire area of the district is hilly and is full of forest. Prior to Independence, this area was cut off from rest of the country on account of restrictions imposed during the British rule on outsiders who were not allowed to enter and stay in the Dangs. Moreover, the district has no cottage industries and handicrafts as production is for direct consumption. Most of the products of aboriginals are for personal consumption and not for sale, consequently there is direct relationship between their production activities and their consumer needs. This explains why in the past, only two industries could develop, viz., basketry and *kath* manufacture. Regarding manufacture of *kath*, old *Khandesh Gazetteer* states :

> "The only manufacture is catechu, *kath*. The heartwood of the *khair* tree is cut into chips about an inch square and as thick as a piece of cardboard. The pieces are boiled in pots by women, each woman having before her two rows of six pipkins, each holding about a quart of water. In ten of these, the chips are boiled and the liquid is then poured into two larger pots placed in the centre where it is kept boiling to exhaust the superfluous water At the end of the day the liquid in the jars is poured into a wooden trough, and strained by dipping a piece of blanket into it and squeezing the blanket into the trough. The liquid is then allowed to stand, and throw down a sediment, which when dry is *kath*. There are several *kath* manufactories ; and there is supposed to be some secret in the process. The people employed in catechu-making are called Kathodias. The whole process is managed by their women."[1]

According to the *Annual Administration Report* for the Dangs, for 1944-46 the *khair* trees were in abundance in the Dangs but they came to be destroyed on a large scale on account of *kath* manufacture. It is reported that in one year, as many as 75 catechu kilns were licensed at about Rs 10 per kiln, resulting in wholesale destruction.

This was the position in 1880. Recent inquiries indicate that at present catechu or *kath* is not manufactured on a commercial scale, though the wood needed for this industry is available. There is one community known as Kathodia who manufacture *kath* in a crude manner.

1. CAMPBELL J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. XII. *Khandesh*. Bombay, (1880), pp. 602-603.

The 1961 Census

Establishments

The 1961 Census has thrown up important data relating to the economic condition of the people (i) by undertaking for the first time a complete Census of Industrial Establishments in the country and (ii) by so enlarging the scope of the questionnaire on the individual enumeration slip as to yield a large number of economic tables published in its general as well as household series.

According to the *Housing and Establishments Census*, the Dangs district has returned a total number of 76 establishments engaged in the production of goods and employing 133 persons in the various branches of industry operated on household as well as non-household basis.

The statement given below shows the importance of establishments engaged in the manufacture of sundry hardwares such as galvanized iron pipe, wire-net, bolt, screw, bucket, cutlery, manufacture of textile garments including raincoats and headgear, repairing and servicing of motor vehicles, production of rice, *atta*, flour, etc., by milling, dehusking and processing of crops and foodgrains, production of bread, biscuits, cake and other bakery products.

STATEMENT V-1

Industries arranged in descending order of Number of Establishments, 1961

Sl. No.	Minor group	Description	Number of units	Percentage to total
1	2	3	4	5
1	369	Manufacture of sundry hardwares such as galvanized iron pipe, wire net, bolt, screw, bucket and cutlery	44	57.89
2	273	Making of textile garments including raincoats and headgear	10	13 15
3	384	Repairing and servicing of motor vehicles ..	7	9.22
4	200	Production of rice, *atta*, flour, etc., by milling, dehusking and processing of crops and foodgrains	5	6.58
5	205	Production of bread, biscuits, cake and other bakery products	2	2.64
6	207	Production of edible fats and oils (other than hydrogenated oil)	2	2.64
7	311	Manufacture of shoes and other leather footwear	2	2.64
8	280	Sawing and planning of wood	1	1.31
9	289	Manufacture of other wood and allied products	1	1.31
10	370	Manufacture and assembling of machinery (other than electrical) except textile machinery	1	1.31
11	385	Repairing of bicycles and tricycles ..	1	1.31
		Total	**76**	**100.00**

Source :

Census of India 1961, Vol. V, Gujarat, Part IV-B, *Housing and Establishments Tables*.

POWER

In view of the district being a backward area, the power development programme has not made much headway. The Gujarat Electricity Board has extended 66 kv. electric line from Bilimora upto Waghai and Ahwa, thus linking the district with the grid system existing in the State.

RURAL ELECTRIFICATION

Till the end of Second Five Year Plan, there was no electrification in the district. During Third Five Year Plan, however, two villages, Ahwa and Waghai, were electrified for all purposes. In 1966-67, 6 more villages, viz., Bhavandagad, Chiktia, Daodahad, Kudkas, Nadakhkhadi and Pimpri were electrified.

In October, 1965 the Gujarat Electricity Board decided to electrify villages having agricultural wells. As there are no agricultural wells in the district, no village could be selected for the purpose of electrification. However, the Board proposed to electrify 200 Adivasi villages during the Gandhi centenary in the State. Out of these 200 villages the following 13 villages from the district have been selected for the purpose of electrification.

1	Sivarimal	8	Susarda
2	Chikhli (Shamgahan Seja)	9	Baj
3	Borpada	10	Sakarpatal
4	Malegaon	11	Nanapada
5	Rambhas	12	Ambapada (Waghai Seja)
6	Devipada	13	Shamgahan
7	Jamalapada (Gadhvi Seja)	14	Chichgaotha

In the district at present there is no generating plant and, therefore, the electric supply is obtained through the H.V. lines.

MINING

In the absence of any geological survey, no factual informaiton about the mineral resources is available. The district is not known for its mineral production. The minor minerals available in the district are other building stones, murram, brick earth, sand and road metal.

STATEMENT V·2

Mineral Production of Dangs District

(PRODUCTION IN M. TONNES)

Sl. No.	Mineral	Year 1965	1966	1967	1968
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Other building stones	4,146	..	..	..
2	Murrum	4,552	..	3,100	5,604
3	Brick earth	226	..	..	..
4	Sand	1,845	2,000	1,526	1,955
5	Road metal	1,054	1,800	3,537	4,865

Source :
The Directorate of Geology and Mining, Ahmedabad.

REGISTERED FACTORIES

According to the returns furnished by the Chief Inspector of Factories. Gujarat State, there were two registered factories working in the public sector in 1968 in the district. The break-up according to the prescribed industrial classification is given in the following statement :

STATEMENT V·3

Registered Factories and Workers, 1968

Sl. No.	Classification	Number of registered factories	Number of working factories	Number of reporting factories	Average number of workers employed daily
1	2	3	4	5	6
	(I) Government and Local Fund Factories				
1	Wood and cork except furniture	1	1	1	45
2	Electricity, gas and steam	1	1	..	10
	Total	2	2	1	55

Source :
The Chief Inspector of Factories, Gujarat State, Ahmedabad.

From the point of employment, the most important unit is wood and cork except furniture. This unit whose account follows hereafter is functioning on account of teak wood being available in plenty in this district.

Wood Sawing and Preservation Plant, Waghai

This is the only largest Government Factory engaged in the processing of wood, viz., sawing, preservation and seasoning in the Gujarat State. It was established by the Forest Department of the former Bombay State in 1940 at Waghai, primarily for manufacturing railway sleepers. Subsequently, it was remodelled by adding new machinery in 1957. The mills ceased to function thereafter. The restarting of the mills was proposed during the Second Five Year Plan with a view to sawing defective timber which did not sell profitably. It was felt that the mills would also help to market timber in the most advantageous manner after converting it into logs of suitable sizes. The saw mills started functioning from 1959. With the restarting of the mills, the Dangi cartmen and labour found a potential source of gainful employment. As the demand for timber began to increase it was considered desirable to introduce some of the *injaili* (non-teak) timbers by making them acceptable after seasoning and giving preservative treatment. Accordingly, seasoning kiln and a treatment plant were installed in 1958-59. But owing to certain difficulties this plant started functioning as late as June, 1963. It must, however, be admitted that public has not yet taken to the use of *injaili* timber, though after seasoning and treatment, it becomes as durable and insect-proof as teak timber, if not better. The object in installing an integrated unit at Waghai is to make use of every bit of timber that is produced in the forest by sawing it in popular sizes and putting these sizes up for sale by auction. The Forest Department has also taken advantage of the saw mills and has started accepting indents for sawn sizes to meet the requirements of various Central Government Departments and the Government undertakings in the country. The following table gives the details about the material supplied and revenue realised :

Year	Teak timber in cu. m.	Value in Rs.
1963-64	2,960	13,59,075
1964-65	1,901	11,37,600
1965-66	2,642	17,71,980

Source : Government of Gujarat, *Forest Gujarat*, 1968, p. 38.

At sanctioned rates, indents are accepted. The material is passed by the Superintendent, Saw Mills, and his sanction is final. In case of special sizes required by the indentors, special rates are quoted after taking into consideration the size and quality of timber required. Some of the indentors also take advantage of the seasoning kiln and the treatment plant. The Forest Department has supplied the following quantity of material to various

institutions after seasoning and giving treatment in the integrated unit at Waghai.

Year	Material	Quantity supplied in cu. metres	Revenue realised in Rs.
1	2	3	4
1966-67 ..	Teak sawn sizes	1,720	7,43,556
1967-68 ..	Teak sawn sizes	1,827	9,22,743
1968-69 ..	(i) Teak sawn sizes	1,308	7,14,273
	(ii) Treated Kakad and Modad odd sizes	131	

Source :

The Divisional Forest Officer, Dangs.

In addition to supplying treated timber, the Forest Department also accepts orders either for seasoning or for treatment of private material as well. The revenue realised so far in this respect is as under ·

Year	Name of the Institution	Revenue realised in Rs.
1	2	3
1967-68	Post and Telegraphs Department	1,30,406.05
	Oil and Natural Gas Commission, Ankleshwar	6,009.96 (Inclusive of cost of wood)
1968-69	st and Telegraphs Department	82,911.72

Source

The Divisional Forest Officer, Dangs.

The total investment in plant and machinery amounted to Rs. 4 lakhs and it provided employment to 45 persons. In 1969, it disbursed Rs. 85,355 as wages and salaries. At present wood is sawn, preserved and seasoned according to the requirements of various Central Government Departments and Government undertakings in the country.

The table given below shows the wood-sawing work done during the years 1966-67, 1967-68 and 1968-69 :

Year	In-take cu. metres	Out-turn cu. metres
1966-67	3,000	1,687
1967-68 .. .	3,700	1,811
1968-69	3,420	1,711

Source :

Government of India, *Report on Industrial Possibilities in Rural Area Waghai, (No. 1)* Dangs District.

Very recently a move is afoot to establish an industrial estate at Waghai through the Gujarat Industrial Development Corporation.

THE INDUSTRIAL POTENTIAL AND PLAN FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

The industrial development of the district is related to the availability of primary resources. The tempo of industrialisation which has gathered momentum in the State is, however, not seen in this district. This is due to the fact that there is hardly any local entrepreneurship available in the district. Despite the fact that forests which flourish in the district on account of the efforts of the local 'Adivasis', the district has suffered as its forest resources have not been utilised fully for its industrial development. The district in past was an obscure region. The obscurity can well be understood by the fact that local teak grown in the district is known as *Bulsari Sag*. The saw mills and other wood-working units which flourish on a large scale in the Bulsar district, utilise the resources of the Dangs. The economy of the Dangs district is based on forest wealth. The forests yielded an income of about Rs. 1·50 crores in 1967-68 from its major and minor produce. *The Techno-Economic Survey of Gujarat* has aptly brought out the importance of the forests of Dangs and Surat districts. It states, "Though Dangs and Surat districts contain only 30 per cent of the forest area, they account for 67 per cent of the State's forest revenues. More than 70 per cent of the State's output of timber (in terms of million cu. ft.) and firewood comes from these two districts."[1]

The following species of forest wood are of industrial importance. The out-turn of these species in 1967-68 was as follows :

Species	Out-turn (in cu. metres)	Species	Out-turn (in cu. metres)
Teak .. .	49,088.518	*Khair*	55.000
Ain .. .	3.181.187	*Shevan*	21.800
Sisam	444.938	*Dhaman* . .	400.700
Kalam	4,146.015	*Tiwas* . ..	1,647.235
Bio	239.306	Other species ..	11,599.768

The teak, which forms an important major forest produce, yields an annual income of Rs. 1 crore approximately. The Bamboo, *Kadia* gum and other minor seeds yield an income of about Rs. 5 lakhs per annum. The

1. National Council of Applied Economic Research, *Techno-Economic Survey of Gujarat*, New Delhi, (1963), p. 46.

local bamboo is supplied under a contract to the Paper Pulp Mills at Fort Songadh in the Surat district. *Kadia* gum is exported to U. S. A. As the district is a good teak bearing area it would be worthwhile to examine the potential for developing prospects of forest-based industries in the district.

With a view to giving guidelines to the prospective entrepreneurs, the following industries offer better investment opportunities.

FOREST-BASED INDUSTRIES

It may be observed that forests of the district have been exploited since the East India Company entered into lease arrangement in 1842 with the Chiefs. The benefits of industrialisation, however, have not accrued to this district because it lacks the infra-structure facilities needed for industrial development. It is common knowledge that the Dangs forests are the richest forests in the Gujarat State which can supply large dimensional timber.

It has already been discussed at length that the rich forest resources are available in the Dangs district. Of late, numerous inquiries are being made with the Forest and Industries Departments by entrepreneurs residing outside the district for information about the resources for setting up industrial units. From the point of location, Waghai appears to be a suitable location as it is well connected by roads and railway with other neighbouring districts.

Wooden Electrical Accessories

Wooden electrical accessories items like wood-casing, capping, batons, switch-boards, etc., are used for electrification of new buildings and also for replacement of existing wires. At present, no organised unit is reported to be manufacturing electrical wooden accessories in southern Gujarat area and as such the current requirements are met by imports from the States of Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh. It is estimated that the current demand for wooden electrical accessories in southern Gujarat alone is of the order of Rs. 4 lakhs and the same is likely to step upto Rs. 6 lakhs by the end of 1973-74. Moreover, sizeable demand also emanates from central and north Gujarat. There is, therefore, considerable scope for establishing such units.

Wooden electrical accessories can be manufactured in small carpentry workshops and do not require any specialised skills. Wood required for the manufacture of these products is available in the district in plenty. Wood waste of different sizes can be obtained at a nominal rate from the Government Saw Mills which is functioning at Waghai. One or two units can, therefore, be profitably established at Waghai to manufacture various types of wooden electrical accessories. Their products would be much in demand in Gujarat and Maharashtra States.

AGRO-BASED INDUSTRIES

Paddy and oil-seeds are the two main agricultural products, which can be further processed by establishing rice milling and oil crushing units in the Dangs district.

Rice Mills

Paddy is one of the principal food crops grown in the area of 70,000 acres and its output is 4,200 tonnes. The main paddy-growing areas in the district are Pimpri, Pipaladahad, Gadhvi, Galkund and Sakarpatal. Currently, paddy grown in the area is sent to Bansda, Chikhli and other places of the Bulsar district for further processing. During the discussions with the officers of the Agricultural Department, traders and knowledgeable persons in the area, it was learnt that there has been substantial increase in the paddy cultivation during the past few years. It was, therefore, held that paddy could be economically processed in the Dangs itself, provided Government permitted establishment of a rice-mills in the district. Since Waghai and Ahwa are collecting and marketing centres of paddy and rice, one or two units can come up for the processing of paddy and other cereals like *warai* grown in the Dangs district. On account of the availability of entrepreneurship, power and raw materials, Waghai would prove to be a better growth centre for establishing a rice-mills.

Oil Mills

The main commercial crop grown in the area is *khursani* oil-seeds. Besides this, other oil-seeds like groundnut and castor seeds are also grown on a large scale. The total area under oil-seeds is 13,000 acres and the output is 1,600 tonnes. At present, there is no oil mills in the area in the small-scale sector. However, two units on a cottage basis are working at Ahwa for extracting oil from *khursani* seeds, by local *ghanies*. Yield of oil from *khursani* seeds by local *ghanies* is low as 10 to 12 per cent of oil remains in the oilcake.

The production of oil-*ghanies* which are working in the traditional manner is limited and meets a very small portion of the local demand. The oil-seeds grown in the area are exported to Dharampur and Bansda in the Bulsar district for further processing, and the oil is obtained for consumption in the district as it is extensively used by local population.

For utilising the existing raw material, which is abundantly available in the district, it is suggested that one or two oil mills with sufficient number of expellers may be established in the area. A suitable place for the proposed units would be Waghai or Ahwa due to better locational

advantage and transport facilities from where finished products can be marketed throughout the district.

OTHER INDUSTRIES

Powerlooms

The Adivasis wear coarse cloth, but the traditional handloom industry is conspicuously absent in the district. The entire requirement of the cloth is, therefore, met mostly from the neighbouring districts of the total value of Rs. 15 lakhs per year. Under the impact of the Five Year Plans, the standard of living of the tribal people has improved considerably. The demand for cloth has, therefore, increased. In the circumstances, it will be a paying proposition to establish a powerloom unit with at least four looms in the proposed industrial estate at Waghai.

WELFARE OF INDUSTRIAL LABOUR

The Dangs territory is full of forests and hills and the people are very backward. The British looked to their forest interests and did little to develop industries in the area. The labour policy of Government has, therefore, not much relevance here.

THE INDIAN FACTORIES ACT, 1948

History

The harmonious industrial relationship in factories and workshops depends on the humane treatment of the workers. For the regulation of conditions of labour, a beginning in the labour legislation was made as early as 1881, when the Factories Act, 1881 was passed. This Act was a simple piece of legislation primarily designed to protect children and to provide for some health and safety mesaures. The Act was amended several times to meet the changing conditions. In 1934, it was drastically amended to implement the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Labour in India and the conventions of the International Labour Organisation. Since, 1937, the Act has been amended from time to time widening its scope and enlarging the rights of workers. However, inspite of a series of amendments the general framework of the Act has remained intact. Its working has emphasized the need for complete revision with a view to strengthening its provisions in relation to safety, health and welfare of workers. It was also felt desirable to extend its protective provisions to the large number of smaller industrial establishments, which were then not within the purview of the Act. In 1948, therefore, an entirely new Act was enacted to consolidate and amend the law relating to labour in factories.

The Act lays down the minimum provisions for safety, health and welfare of workers in factories.

The main provisions of the Act are as follows :

(1) The Act covers all industrial establishments employing 10 or more workers, where power is used, or 20 or more workers, where power is not used. It removes the distinction between perennial and seasonal factories.

(2) The Act, provides for a number of measures relating to health, safety and welfare of workers. It provides for cleanliness, ventilation, cooling of the air, sufficient lighting, supply of drinking water, separate latrines and urinals for males and females, artificial humidification and disposal of waste and effluents.

(3) It further provides for the fencing of machinery by substantial construction, only specially trained adult male workers being permitted to handle the machinery in motion. No woman or child is allowed to clean, lubricate or adjust any part of the moving machinery. The other safety provisions relate to the casing of new machinery, devices for cutting off power, hoists, cranes and other lifting machineries, protection of eyes and precautions against dangerous fumes.

Provisions are made for adequate washing facilities, canteens in units employing 250 workers, creches in units employing 50 women and shelter or rest rooms in units employing 150 workers. The Act also requires the owner of any factory employing 500 or more workers to appoint Labour Welfare Officer.

(4) The minimum age for employment of young persons is fixed at 14 and the upper age limit for adolescents is raised from 17 to 18 years.

(5) The hours of work have been fixed at 48 hours a week and 9 hours a day for adult workers. For persons below 18, the hours of work are fixed at 4½ hours a day. Employment of children and women between 7 p. m. and 6 a. m. is prohibited. For overtime work, twice the normal rate of wage is to be paid.

(6) As regards leave with wages, besides weekly holidays, every worker is entitled to enjoy leave with wages after one year's continuous service.

Thus, the Act makes adequate provisions for the safety, health and weflare of the workers. There are only 2 factories governed by the provisions of the Indian Factories Act, 1948. They are placed in charge of the Junior Inspector stationed at Navsari. It is reported that the working of the Act is found satisfactory.

CHAPTER VI

BANKING, TRADE AND COMMERCE

A—Banking and Finance

INTRODUCTION

Economic problems of the Dangs are distinguishable from those of other districts in the State. During the British rule, efforts were made only to exploit the forests and very little was done for the improvement of the economic condition of the Dangis. Since there was no industry and very little of trade, savings and investments were practically nil. In view of such economic backwardness of the district, the Government, after Independence, adopted several measures for improving the standard of living of the people by making concerted efforts for economic uplift of this backward area. No other agency has so far come forward to meet the financial requirements of its developmental activities. Even at present, there is not a single joint stock company or a commercial bank in the district. Government has, therefore, to provide the necessary finance for the economic development of the district. Among the important measures adopted to this end, mention may be made of the 'Dangs Reserve Fund' and provision of a separate 'Budget head' for the Dangs. Further, the Government of Gujarat has constituted the Dangs Development Council under the chairmanship of the Chief Minister to co-ordinate the development activities of different departments in the district. This Council also serves as a directing-*cum*-supervision agency for the developmental activities in the district.

Reserve Fund

The Dangs Reserve Fund was originally created with effect from the 1st April, 1937 when the administration of the Dangs forests was taken over from the Bombay Government and the forest leases were terminated by the Government of India. At that time, the question arose about the treatment of the surplus amount which had then accrued from the revenues of the Dangs forests after deducting the lease-money payable to the Dangs Chiefs and Naiks and the expenditure incurred for the administration of forests. After a long controversy between the Bombay Government and the Government of India, it was finally decided that in view of the growing needs of the Dangs administration, the entire revenue should be available for the local purposes, that a fund should be created out of this surplus and that the same should be utilised for the welfare and development of the Dangs only.

After Independence and merger of the Dangs State in the Bombay Province in 1948, the Reserve Fund set apart for the welfare of the Dangis was made over to that State. At the instance of the late Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the then Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister of Government of India, the corpus of the fund was earmarked for development of the Dangs only. On formation of the Gujarat State, the fund amount was transferred to the Government of Gujarat which initiated several measures for the upliftment of the Dangis. Lest any scheme may suffer for lack of funds, a special provision is made to advance loans from this Reserve Fund to be adjusted in the next year's budget. Separate budget head "33-A-Dangs" has been maintained to watch progress of development in Dangs.

The receipts and expenditure of the Dangs area were recorded in the Revenue Section in lump separately on the receipt and expenditure sides of the provincial section. Any difference between the income and outlay was transferred at the end of the year to a Deposit head (Dangs Reserve Fund) in the Deposit section. The balance of the Reserve Fund transferred from Government of India was also credited into this account. The Secretary to the Government, Revenue Department was appointed Administrator, and the Collector, Dangs, as the Treasurer of the Fund. On 17th October, 1967, the balance in the Fund was Rs. 3·81 crores. The total accumulations amount to Rs. 6·00 crores at present.

For keeping of a separate account of receipts and expenditure of the Dangs, a major head of expenditure, viz., "33-A-Dangs District—Dangs Expenditure" is opened. There are sub-heads for each department and budget provision is made under the respective minor heads of accounts for each department. The receipts of the Dangs are credited to the "27-A-Dangs Receipts". The Collector of Dangs is designated the Controlling Authority for the budget head "33-A-Dangs". All the budget estimates pertaining to the Dangs district are to be submitted to the Government by the Collector in consultation with the Heads of Departments. Similarly, after the budget is passed, the funds under the major head are placed at the Collector's disposal who, in turn, gets the schemes executed through the concerned departments.

INDEBTEDNESS

Dangis, as all tribals are, by nature extravagant and improvident. Though their requirements are minimum, they are strongly addicted to drinking and intoxicants which force them to spend lavishly on them and incur debts. Even the Chiefs of the Dangs are no exception. Being ignorant and illiterate, they were much exploited by *shahukars*. Steps were taken by the former British Government to prevent the *parsis* and *banias* from cheating these Chiefs, who are not worldly-wise. The Government placed a strict restriction on these Chiefs so that they might not incur any

new debt. Dangs Diwan was instructed to keep a watch over their expenditure and the Chiefs were also required to report to the Government in case they had incurred any debt. The Post Office Savings Bank was opened at Ahwa in 1906 and it was also suggested that surplus amount at the disposal of the Dangs Chiefs should be deposited in this post office. Due to all these measures, it was claimed by the British Government that the 14 Chiefs probably for the first time in history were out of debt.[1]

After Independence, the Government adopted various measures to ameliorate their socio-economic conditions. The Bombay Money-lenders Act, 1946 has been applied to this district. The Government also directed that the Act should be strictly enforced for preventing the *shakukars* from exploiting the people in the notified backward areas of the State in general.[2]

Strenuous efforts are being made to develop the co-operative movement which can function as a rival agency to money-lenders and provide necessary financial assistance so that they (Dangis) need not approach *shahukars* who take every precaution to ensure that their borrowers become their permanent debtors. Co-operative societies in the district also opened grain depots even in the interior parts of the Dangs to provide grains mainly *nagli* and other articles of day to day requirements at moderate prices.

Despite all these measures, the indebtedness is widespread. This will be evident from the result of the survey conducted by the Census authority in Gadhvi village of the Dangs in the course of 1961 Census. According to the survey, out of a total of 143 households in Gadhvi, as many as 104, i. e., nearly 75 per cent were in debt and their total debt was to the extent of Rs. 15,832. Distributing this amount among 553 persons of the indebted households, the incidence of debt works out to Rs. 28·63 per capita, Rs. 152·23 per indebted household and Rs. 110·71 per household in the village.

The survey also revealed that a major portion of the debt, i. e., 90·08 per cent of the total, was incurred for unproductive purposes like home consumption (28·41 per cent), repairs to house (9·12 per cent), marriage and other ceremonies (5·75 per cent), medicine (2·27 per cent), etc. Debts incurred for the purchase of bullocks, tools and other agricultural implements amounted to 8·39 per cent only. As regards the sources of advances, the survey disclosed that the loans were acquired mostly from the relatives (24·29 per cent) and tradesmen (22·19 per cent). The money-lenders contributed only 7 per cent of the total amount. As against these,

1. *Annual Administration Report for Dangs*, 1906.

2. Government Resolution No. MLA/1068/80781/c, July, 1969..

the Government and semi-Government institutions like co-operative societies provided very negligible proportion of the debt, i. e., 1·16 per cent and 1·35 per cent respectively. The relatively large extent of indebtedness to traders indicates the extent to which the villagers are exposed to exploitation in their dealings with this class, which, apart from money-lending, supplied their household requirements on credit. With the expanding horizon of co-operative movement, spread of education and improvement in their economic condition, it is expected that the villagers will be able to understand the dire consequences of their mounting indebtedness.

Money-lenders

In the undeveloped societies, money does not seem to occupy the important position which it does in the advanced societies. The Dangis as a tribe are poor and backward. The Nature has bestowed upon the Dangis sufficient natural resources to enable them to satisfy the bare necessities of life. In the event of scarcity, they live upon tree leaves, roots and wild fruits. They require little clothing and reside in thatched huts built from bamboos locally available. Due to poverty, they rarely undertake any economic activity which requires capital investment. As in all other backward societies, barter system was prevalent and to a great extent it still obtains in the Dangs. The Dangis barter timber, gum and honey for necessities of life. In barter, they were deceived and the valuable forest produce was taken away from them in return for a paltry amount. Thus, on account of the tribal way of living and prevalence of the barter system. money was seldom in vogue and the money-lenders were not much in demand like other developed districts.

Indebtedness is the bane of tribal life. The Dangis are no exception to it. They are driven to incur debt because of the peculiar local conditions and needs. Though they live a simple life, there is no adequate food production in the district. They have, therefore, to resort to the *shahukar* for consumption loans of foodgrains, *nagli*. Secondly, they have also to incur debt on account of their addiction to liquor and other intoxicants, which led to their exploitation by the *parsi* distillers in the past and by the money-lenders in the present. Thirdly, their superstitious beliefs in witch-craft require them to spend lavishly on *bhuvas* and *bhagats*. Fourthly, they have also to give large quantities of foodgrains as rental for hiring the bullocks for two to three months in a year. In the absence of any alternative agency to meet these urgent requirements, they are driven to the unscrupulous money-lenders, who exploit them in all possible ways.

Their sorry plight is graphically described by Messrs Boyce, Timber Agent and Captain Morris in their joint report submitted to the Government of Bombay in 1843. They observed that "Dangs Chiefs-Naiks who are like small *thakors*, play in the hands of *shahukars* and they easily fall a

prey to the stratagems of *shahukars* and become their permanent debtors. These *shahukars* grab almost the entire produce of their (Dang Chiefs') areas and take precaution to ensure that they may not be able to extricate themselves from debt during their life-time. The debts instead of decreasing go on mounting up because of Naiks' ignorance, liberality and spendthrift nature. As a result, they are always in debt."[1]

This sad plight of the Dangis continued without much change for decades. The then Bombay Government was seized of the problem of tribal indebtedness and their exploitation by money-lenders. The Annual Administration Report of the Dangs for the year 1908 throws light on the tribal indebtedness and the usurious rates of interest charged from the Dangis. "One difficulty which the people experience is that advances when required can only be raised at from 50 per cent to 100 per cent interest per annum. It is not possible to avoid loans altogether. Some of the Patels are becoming richer and thus able to lend grains to the people. When possible, the cultivators borrow from them. But in many cases, the people are forced to resort to the liquor shop-keepers or to the Chiefs' private Diwans who are almost extortionate."[2]

Money-lenders as such were not permitted to settle in the Dangs. Since the land vested in Government, the Dangis had no alienable rights in lands. As a result, there were no alienation of lands to outsiders. In these respects, the Dangis were and are very much better off than many tribals in the neighbouring districts.

The principal money-lenders in the Dangs territory were *parsi* distillers, Chiefs' private Dewans, and some rich *patels*. Of these, the first two charged exorbitant rates of interest, which were sometimes over 300 per cent.[3] To remedy the situation, Mr. Hodgson, the Assistant Political Agent suggested that a surplus fund (resulting from the payment of lease-money) lying at the disposal of the Chiefs should be made available to the people at a reasonable rate of interest, i. e., 10 per cent.

The contact of the Dangis was (and is) mainly with the general shop-keepers, timber contractors and liquor shop-keepers. They exercised great influence over the Dangis. In some cases, they had been suspected of money-lending and their influence appeared to be mixed one.

One of the most important measures adopted by the British Government to save the Dangis from the clutches of the *shahukars* was the establishment of the Nagli Co-operative Society in 1908. This society

1. MANIBHAI DWIVEDI, *Puratan Dakshin Gujarat*, (1940).

2. *Annual Administration Report for Dangs*, 1908.

3. *Ibid.*, 1909.

was managed by the Revenue Department. It provided grain loans at 25 per cent which was comparatively very cheap. Although the capital of the society was not large but the provision of cheap credit to the Dangis was much helpful. It constituted an insurance against famine.

"Another important innovation worth mentioning for which the Dangs Diwan deserves credit is the establishment of the society for lending grain at 25 per cent, i. e., one measure is given and 1¼ are returned. This society also lends money at 9 per cent, the lowest rate to which merchant will agree. The present rates in Dangs run upto over 300 per cent, consequently any scheme that will enable cultivator to borrow the grain or when necessary, money on fair terms is of the utmost importance."[1] This society did commendable work by providing grain and money loans to its members especially in the years of scarcity. The rate of interest for grain lending was reduced from 25 per cent to 12 per cent in 1915.

After Independence, the Dangs territory was merged with the Bombay State and the Bombay Money-lenders Act, 1946 was made applicable to the Dangs district. The Government on the one hand encouraged the growth of co-operative credit societies by providing substantial financial assistance to the co-operative societies and on the other, took special measures to prevent exploitation of the Dangis. In pursuance of this, the Co-operative Officer[2] has been appointed in the Dangs from 21st October, 1969 who is charged with responsibility of implementing the Bombay Money-lenders Act, 1946.

Though the Bombay Money-lenders Act is in force in the district for a pretty long time, no person has applied for grant of a money-lending licence till 1969. This shows that there is not a single licensed money-lender in the district. Although nobody has applied for a money-lending licence, it may not be presumed that there are no money-lenders in the district. The *shahukars* have been thriving on the ignorance, illiteracy and improvidence of the Dangis. Co-operative societies have opened grain depots at a number of villages in the Dangs which cater to the daily requirements at reasonable rates. Government has also taken several other measures to provide employment to the Dangis for their economic uplift. Unless the economic condition of the Dangis is improved by education and employment, the law regulating money-lending alone will not effectively check illicit money-lending.

Co-operative Societies and Banks

The concept of co-operation is not new to the Dangis. They co-operated in their traditional manner in cultivation of land, fishing, hunting, fairs

1. *Annual Administration Report for Dangs*, 1909.
2. Government of Gujarat, G. R. No. MLA/1068/80781, July, 1969.

and festivals in their community life. But the co-operation in the modern sense was not conceived by them. This was primarily because of the non-monetization of its economy. Barter was a system for sale and purchase of consumer commodities by the Dangis. Secondly, the needs of the Dangis were few and limited and could be satisfied from the natural resources available around. The Dangis' economy was to a large extent self-sufficient, meeting their daily requirements from inferior foodgrains raised, fruits, roots, tubers, fish and flesh available in the area. Thirdly, there was restriction on the entry of the non-Dangis in the territory. This prevented free social and economic intercourse with the people of the adjacent areas. Fourthly, the hilly terrain and the dense forests with malignant malaria were inhospitable to any outsider. In these circumstances, the need for co-operative credit societies in the modern sense was not felt by the Dangis.

The germs of the modern co-operative credit society are found in the grain lending society set up in 1908 during the British regime. During certain periods of the year, great shortage of foodgrains was felt in the Dangs. To meet this scarcity condition, the Dangs Dewan started grain lending society. The society advanced *nagli* to the Dangis and recovered it with 25 per cent interest in kind. If one *champa*[1] of *nagli* was given as loan, the society recovered 1¼ *champas*. This society occasionally provided monetary loans to its members. It met the felt needs of the Dangis to a great extent.

On account of the illiterate and improvident Adivasi population and the general apathy of the British administration, the co-operative movement did not gather momentum before merger.

This was the position before its merger in the Bombay State in 1948. After merger, the first co-operative society in the modern sense was registered at Ahwa in 1949 in order to provide articles of daily necessities at reasonable rates. The society opened fair price shops in the interior parts of the district. Efforts were made to set up co-operative societies at important villages. By the end of the First Five Year Plan, there were 22 such societies

A noteworthy development in the co-operation during the Second Plan period was the formation of the market societies in the district. By the end of the Second Plan, there were 67 different types of co-operative societies in the district. During the Third Plan, though there was no significant rise in the number of societies, their membership and working funds expanded enormously. For example, the membership of agricultural credit societies rose from 1,670 to 5,412 and the working capital went up from Rs. 129,331 to Rs. 617,547 between 1960-61 and 1968-69. Similarly the membership

1. *Champa* is a bulk measure used in the Dangs for weighment.

and the working capital of non-agricultural credit societies respectively rose from 238 to 899 and Rs. 16,466 to Rs. 163,128 during the same period. The present position of the various types of the societies in the district is briefly reviewed below.

Agricultural Credit Societies—Even though the Dangs is a land of dense forests, agriculture is not less important from the point of view of employment and livelihood. For all-round development of the primary sector in this backward district, Government is giving adequate attention to the development of agriculture by providing sufficient funds to the co-operative societies for granting loans liberally. Besides performing all the normal functions of credit societies, such as providing money-loans, seeds and manures, these societies also run the grain depots. Generally, loans are disbursed and recovered only in the form of grains. It may be emphasised that out of 30 primary societies in 1968-69, as many as 27 societies had adopted the bye-laws of the grain-depots, and managed the grain depots themselves under the Bombay Co-operative Societies Act. The Revenue Department also maintains some such depots, which are not registered under the Bombay Co-operative Societies Act. Their accounts are maintained by the Revenue Department. Another significant feature of the co-operative movement in the district is that the agricultural credit societies have achieved a hundred per cent coverage, as all the 311 villages in the district have been brought within its fold. The total membership was 5,412 in 1968-69 which is almost 58 per cent of the total number of *khatedars* in the district.

Non-agricultural Credit Societies—Just as the agricultural credit societies are mainly situated in rural areas, the non-agricultural credit societies are usually situated in urban areas. In view of the fact there are practically no urban centres, the scope for the development of non-agricultural credit societies is limited in the district with the result that there were only three such societies in the district in 1968-69.

The present position about the working of the agricutural and non-agricultural credit societies is shown in the Statement VI·1 appended at the end of the Chapter.

During the period from 1960-61 to 1968-69, the number of the agricultural credit societies increased from 22 to 30. The number of members increased thrice. As regards capital, the paid-up share capital practically doubled and the working capital increased five times. The increase in the amount of loans advanced was eight times. It was remarkable that there were no heavy overdues. In view of the poverty of the Dangis, who live upon subsistence agriculture and forest labour, there were obviously no savings and, therefore, no deposits. The financial soundness of the societies was revealed in the increase in the reserve and other funds from Rs. 4,351 to Rs. 3·30 lakhs during the period.

As regards the non-agricultural credit societies, there was no increase in the number of societies but the number of members increased thrice during the period from 1960-61 to 1968-69. The paid-up share capital increased about 9 times and the working capital about 10 times. With the increase in the working capital the amount of loans advanced also increased by about 11 times. It is remarkable that there were no heavy overdues. The financial soundness of the societies was reflected in the increase in the reserve and other funds from Rs. 765 to Rs. 8,623 during the period. Due to the poverty of the people and economic backwardness of the region, the deposits remained at a low level.

Non-credit Societies—Besides the credit societies described above, there are some non-credit societies in the sphere of agriculture such as marketing, poultry, farming, etc., while labour contract, forest labour, consumers' co-operative store, etc., are organised in the non-agricultural sphere. The following statement gives an idea about the working of some of the important societies in both these fields.

Non-credit Societies, 1968-69

Sl. No.	Type of societies	No. of societies	Member-ship	Paid-up capital Rs.	Borrowings from Government and the Central Financing Agency Rs.	Working capital Rs.
		A—Agricultural Non-credit				
1	Marketing Societies ..	3	104	16,750	20.070	54,021
2	Poultry Society ..	1	21	1,210	8,682	29,379
		B—Non-agricultural Non-credit				
1	Forest Labour Co-operative Societies	12	1,884	24,040	—	8,91,423
2	Housing Co-operative Societies	6	2,398	11,950	10,45,506	10,77,086
3	Labour Contract Societies	6	280	20,480	28,556	1,70,891
4	Consumers' Co-operative Society	1	119	1,350	..	3,615

Bulsar District Central Co-operative Bank Ltd., Ahwa Branch—Till recently, there was no commercial bank in this district. A branch of the Bulsar District Central Co-operative Bank Limited was opened at Ahwa in the year 1967. The main object of this bank is to grant loans to the agricultural

co-operative societies for improvement of agriculture and to help raise the standard of living. The bank also grants loans for the development of industries and does banking business like any other scheduled bank.

The following statement shows details of different types of accounts, the amount of loans granted and the extent of overdraft facilities provided to the co-operative societies in the district. On account of the fact that farmers in the Dangs do not enjoy occupancy rights over the land tilled by them,[1] the bank is unable to advance loans for making permanent improvement in the lands. Though the bank has been established only recently, the progress achieved in respect of its working is remarkable, as different types of deposits and advances have expanded considerably.

Operations of the Bulsar District Central Co-operative Bank Ltd., Ahwa

	Individuals		Societies	
	No. of Accounts	Amount Rs.	No. of Accounts	Amount Rs.
		A—Deposits		
Current Account :				
1968-69 ..	30	11,308	55	16,368
1969-70 ..	33	22,812	52	19,713
Savings Account :				
1968-69 ..	214	170,510	53	158,866
1969-70 ..	219	251,607	53	110,627
Fixed Deposits :				
1968-69 ..	22	65,936	1	53,103
1969-70 ..	25	86,827	1	56,289
		B—Advances		
1968-69 ..	1	1000	9	234,000
1969-70 ..	1	1000	11	435,000
		C—Business transacted		
1968-69 ..	..	..	..	4,510,891
1969-70 ..	..	..	..	4,716,152

1. The Dangis are now granted occupancy rights in respect of the lands under their cultivation.

SAVINGS COLLECTION

Small Savings—Small Savings Schemes have been devised by Government mainly with a view to mobilising public savings and to raise funds for financing development projects and at the same time encourage the habit of thrift among the people. The scheme dates back to the First World War, 1914-18, when the Government of India introduced the postal cash certificates for the first time. During World War II, the Government of India started in 1943 the post office National Savings Certificate scheme with a view to mopping up excess purchasing power of the people generated by increased War expenditure and also to checking the inflationary conditions created by War conditions.

During the post-Independence period, the Government of India introduced a wide-range of securities under the small savings at attractive rates of interest on the assumption that they would provide large funds for financing the various schemes included in the Five Year Plans. The securities offered are the 12-Year National Savings Certificates (renamed the 12-Year National Defence Certificates in 1962), the 10-Year Treasury Savings Deposit Certificates (also renamed the 10-Year Defence Deposit Certificates), the 15-Year Annuity Certificates and the Cumulative Time Deposit Scheme implemented by the post offices. The Post Office Savings Bank has proved to be another important and popular source for collecting the deposits from semi-urban and rural areas on account of their wide net-work extending even upto the rural areas and the quick facilities provided.

The statement that follows illustrates the extent of savings attracted by the above securities between 1964-65 to 1967-68 in the district.

Small Savings, 1964-68

(IN THOUSAND RUPEES)

Sl. No.	Category	Collection (Approximate)			
		1964-65 Rs.	1965-66 Rs.	1966-67 Rs.	1967-68 Rs.
1	National Defence Certificates ..	3	270	17	..
2	Defence Deposit Certificates ..	..	..	..	..
3	Annuity Certificates	..	..		..
4	Cumulative Time Deposit Scheme ..	6	46	29	47
5	Post Office Savings Bank ..	52	380	647	359
	Total	**61**	**696**	**693**	**406**

The above statistics show that the largest collection of savings was made by the post office savings banks during all these years under reference. National Defence Certificates come next in importance. The overall decline in the gross collection of small savings can be attributed to the general economic backwardness of the district and the limited incomes of its inhabitants.

Till recently the post office savings banks served the credit needs of the people. No commercial bank was attracted to set-up a branch here. It was only in 1967 that a branch of the Bulsar District Central Co-operative Bank Ltd.. was established at Ahwa. Despite this the post office savings banks remain the main banking agency for the people.

At present, there are 3 sub-post offices and about 30 branch post offices in the district where about 6.000 post office savings bank accounts and over 2,500 cumulative time deposit accounts have been opened. The Adivasis who formerly buried currency notes and coins in the ground or hid them in bamboo-pipes now come forward to invest in the fixed deposits and purchase small savings certificates. The district has shown good progress and even fulfilled the targets fixed by the Government for small savings collections. It thrice stood first in the State since 1960 and won *ad hoc* grants amounting to Rs. 2·50 lakhs. The amount was utilised in the construction of 13 primary school buildings, development of the Sun-set point at Saputara, completing the work of Waghai Town Hall, additions and alterations to the Darbar Hall and the construction of a *dharmashala* at Ahwa.

Before bifurcation of the Bombay State, the Dangs also won two prizes for its outstanding performance in the small savings. The prize amount was utilised for construction of markets at Ahwa and Waghai.

Insurance—Agencies doing insurance business play an important part in tapping a portion of the public savings in the form of insurance premia. With the nationalisation of life insurance business in 1956, the Life Insurance Corporation of India has become the foremost and the largest single agency doing life insurance business in India. The Corporation was constituted by an Act of the Parliament in 1956 and started functioning from 1st September, 1956. Thereafter, all private insurance companies, Indian and foreign, ceased to carry on life insurance business in India. However, general insurance business which includes fire, marine, accident, etc., has been kept open to private enterprise. From April, 1964, the Life Insurance Corporation also opened its own General Insurance Department.

In the organisational and administrative set-up of the Life Insurance Corporation, the Dangs district has been placed under the territorial jurisdiction of the Surat division of the Corporation. There is no separate

office of the Corporation in the Dangs district but the Bilimora Development Centre of the Navsari branch carries out the day-to-day administration of the Corporation in the district. There were only two agents of the Corporation canvassing the life and general insurance business in the Dangs in December, 1969.

During the quinquennium (1964-65 to 1968-69) the Corporation issued in the district 306 life insurance policies valued at Rs. 1,195,000. The total premium collected from the policy holders amounted to Rs. 122,000. 52 policies were issued by the General Insurance Department of the Corporation during this period. An amount of Rs. 7,391 was collected under the general insurance head.

Private and Public Limited Companies—Till June, 1970, no private or public limited companies have been registered in the Dangs. This is due to the economic backwardness of the area and the poverty of the Dangis. However, the prospects of establishing agro-based, forest-based and small-scale industries in the Dangs district have recently been assessed by the Small Scale Service Institute, Ahmedabad (a Government of India Undertaking) at the instance of the Gujarat Industrial Development Corporation. The Institute has suggested setting up of a number of units in the Dangs which are described in detail in the Chapters on 'Industries' and 'Economic Trends' of this Gazetteer.

INDUSTRIAL FINANCE

Industrialisation is considered to be very essential for improving economic condition of a region. In order to create proper atmosphere in which industries can be started and are able to make substantial contribution to the gross national output, a number of agencies--corporations and banks, set up by the State Government as well as the Central Government provide the required finance for promotion and expansion of industrial sector. Mention among them must be made of the Industrial Finance Corporation established by the Government of India and a precursor in the field of provision of industrial assistance. The subsequent bodies created by it are the National Industries Development Corporation, Small Industries Development Corporation and the Industrial Development Bank (a subsidiary to the Reserve Bank of India), etc. Those created by the State Government are the Gujarat State Financial Corporation, the Gujarat Industrial Investment Corporation, the Gujarat Industrial Development Corporation, the Gujarat Small Industries Corporation, the Gujarat Agro-Industries Corporation, etc.

In the Dangs, practically there is no industry excepting the Government owned Saw Mills at Waghai which is run departmentally. In the absence

of any other industry worth the name, the question of providing the finance by the Corporations for setting up of new industries and expanding the existing ones in the Dangs does not arise.

Currency and Coinage

As seen earlier, in the past, barter system was in vogue in the Dangs. The Dangis used to barter timber, gum, honey, etc., for the necessities of life. This will be evident from the observations of Major W. J. Morris, Political Assistant. In 1854, he wrote, " The Bhils generally barter bamboos and timber in exchange for the necessaries of life, money circulation is scarce and except that which Rajas receive from the treasury, I do not think there is any other. " This fact is further corroborated by the details given in the *Khandesh District Gazetteer* (1880). " Bamboos and timber are bartered for grain and other necessaries. Money is scarce. The few coins in circulation either belong to the *Sakvadi* currency or are British rupees paid to the Chiefs by Government. These go to the Parsi liquor sellers, or to the Vanjaris, and to the Chiefs' servants. Among themselves the people use grain as the medium of exchange. "[1] The conditions have not materially altered, after Independence, particularly because the monetary transactions are not many. Broadly speaking, the barter system, therefore, still continues in the Dangs in one form or the other.

Thus prior to Independence, the British currency consisting of rupees, annas and pies was in circulation in Dangs. The Dangs Chiefs used to receive cash allowances for leasing their forests to the British Government. This currency was in circulation even after Independence. After Independence, the Government of India also issued coins bearing Asoka lion symbol. These coins were in circulation in the Dangs along with those issued prior to Independence. The Decimal Coinage in terms of rupees and paise was introduced throughout the country from April, 1957 replacing the former currency. For sometimes, both the old and new coins remained in circulation till the old coins were progressively withdrawn.

The present coinage is issued in denominations of 1, 2, 3, 5, 10, 20, 25 and 50 paise, one rupee being equivalent to 100 paise. Currency notes are issued in denominations of Rs. 1, 2, 5, 10, 100 and 1,000. The conversion ratio of the old and new coins is shown below.

It should be mentioned here that due to socio-economic changes and cultural contacts with rest of the country, the Dangis have now begun to use money as a medium of exchange and barter system is being gradually replaced.

1. Campbell J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. XII, *Khandesh*, (1880), p. 602.

Conversion Ratio of Old and New Coins

Old Coinage	Conversion ratio: Old	New*	Old	New*
3 Pies = 1 paise	1 pie	= 1 paisa	3 annas	= 19 paise
6 pies = ½ anna, 2 paise	2 pies	= 1 paisa	4 annas	= 25 paise
12 pies = 1 anna, 4 paise	3 pies	= 2 paise	5 annas	= 31 paise
4 paise = 1 anna	4 pies	= 2 paise	6 annas	= 37 paise
8 paise = 2 annas	5 pies	= 3 paise	7 annas	= 44 paise
12 paise = 3 annas	6 pies	= 3 paise	8 annas	= 50 paise
16 paise = 4 annas	7 pies	= 4 paise	9 annas	= 56 paise
32 paise = 8 annas	8 pies	= 4 paise	10 annas	= 62 paise
64 paise = 1 rupee	9 pies	= 5 paise	11 annas	= 69 paise
	10 pies	= 5 paise	12 annas	= 75 paise
	11 pies	= 6 paise	13 annas	= 81 paise
	1 anna (12 pies)	= 6 paise	14 annas	= 87 paise
	2 annas	= 12 paise	15 annas	= 94 paise
			16 annas	= 100 paise

* These were called *naye paise* till June, 1964 and came to be termed *paise* thereafter.

B—Trade and Commerce

Employment in Trade and Commerce

The 1961 Census has returned 396 persons (367 males and 29 females) as engaged in trade and commerce in the district. The statistics further reveal that workers engaged in wholesale trade numbered 2 only, the rest were employed in retail trade. Among the retailers, dealers predominate in essential commodities like food wherein over 50 per cent of persons are engaged. Retail traders in goods unspecified numbered 63, those trading in fuel such as coke, coal, firewood and kerosene numbered 33 and retail trading in cloth 22.

Retail Trade

The Dangs is one of the economically backward districts in the State. It largely abounds in forests and hilly areas. It is, therefore, small wonder that there are very few shops at Ahwa, Waghai and other places catering to the daily needs of local inhabitants. Most of the purchases by the Dangis are made at the time of the annual Dang Darbar, when traders from nearby districts set up shops at Ahwa for selling consumption goods such as foodgrains, toys, cheap ornaments, utensils, clothes, etc. A few shops of *pan-bidi* are also found. Normal consumption needs are satisfied by purchases from the weekly bazaars held at different villages in the district. Generally the needs of Adivasis are few and Dangis are no exception. Hence continuous retail trade in the strict sense of the term is mostly non-existent in this district.

According to the data furnished by the 1961 Census, 390 persons (males 361, females 29) were engaged in retail trade in the district. Retail trading in cereals, pulses, fruits, sugar, spices, oil, fish, dairy products, poultry, etc., employed 224 ; trading in fuel such as coke, coal, firewood and kerosene 33, and trading in fibres, yarns, *dhoti*, *saree*, ready-made garments of cotton, wool, silk and other textiles and hosiery products, piece-goods of cotton, wool, silk, etc., 22. The Census data further show that among the retailers, 60 persons were employers, 77 employees, 134 single workers and 119 family members of those employed in retail trade.

Retail trade is generally distributed in the following groups :

(i) Grocery shops selling cereals, pulses, spices, *gur*, ground-nut and sesamum oil, *ghee*, tea, coffee, condiments, *agarbatti*, etc., (ii) *pan-bidi* and tobacco shops, which are generally one-man establishments selling *pan* (betel leaves), *bidi*, cigarettes, cigars, chewing tobacco, betel-nuts, wax-candles, match-boxes, (iii) cloth and hosiery shops which deal in all kinds of textiles, cotton and other varieties of textiles, (iv) fuel and charcoal shops, (v) stationery and cutlery shops, (vi) shops selling household utensils of brass and copper, and (vii) sweetmeat and *farsan* shops.

Retail marketing centres are dispersed in all areas. However, the important retail marketing centres continue to be Ahwa and Waghai.

Fair Price Shops

Due to the Second World War, there was an abnormal rise in the prices of essential consumption commodities like cereals, pulses, cloth, sugar, *gur*, kerosene, etc. To check the spiral of rising prices, Government opened fair price shops for selling essential commodities at fair and reasonable rates to persons in lower income groups, i. e., middle and economically backward sections of the society. The scheme is operated on a no-profit no-loss basis. Distribution of cheap grains is made through these shops, wherever possible by co-operative societies and by private individuals elsewhere. The quantum of issues is determined from time to time and supplies regulated by maintaining family ration cards which are registered with these shops. Advance quotas are also stored for meeting contingencies during monsoon when certain areas become inaccessible.

In order to keep a check on the prices of foodgrains, sugar and groundnut oil, licences are required to be taken compulsorily under the Essential Commodities Act, for doing business in these commodities. The number of such licensed traders in foodgrains, sugar and ground-nut oil respectively were 36, 32 and 28. The total quantity of wheat, milo, rice, sugar and ground-nut oil sold through the fair price shops amounted to 1,406 metric tonnes in 1968 and 544 metric tonnes in 1969.

Under the scheme of levy of paddy, 41 metric tonnes were purchased by Government from the producers during 1967-69.

These shops are inspected and their stocks and accounts scrutinised. The prices of kerosene, wheat products, etc., are fixed by Government. Constant watch on the prices and supplies of several other commodities is kept by the officers of the Revenue Department.

The scheme of fair price shops has really benefited Adivasis and played an important role not only in supplying the foodgrains, etc., to these poor Adivasis but has also helped exercise a check over the price trends.

Fairs

Fairs, apart from satisfying the social and religious sentiments of the people, serve as market-places for the people in general and tribals in particular and provide opportunity to purchase consumption goods such as utensils, toys, cutlery, bamboo articles, foodgrains, vegetables, *pan-bidi* and cigarettes and household articles. They provide cultural activities such as *garbas*, folk-dances, songs, *ras*, religious discourses, which attract large gatherings.

Fairs have a special significance in the Dangs. There are no towns and the area is entirely rural inhabited by the Adivasis. There are no marketing places or centres in the district and people purchase articles of daily necessities at these fairs only.

A list of fairs showing details about the occasions, venues of the fairs, congregation, activities, communication and transport facilities and castes and communities participating in them is given at the end of the Chapter (Statement VI.2).

Of the 7 fairs held at different places and at different times of the year in the district, one is dedicated to Lord Rama and the other to a Muslim Pir (saint). The residual fairs are weekly bazaars, a special feature of the Dangi life. The following four fairs, however, deserve special mention on account of the number of persons participating.

1 The Dang Darbar, Ahwa, (organised for seven days),

2 The Badshah Bava Pir Urs, Waghai,

3 The Weekly Bazaar, Galkund,

4 The Weekly Bazaars, Galkund (after monsoon).

The Dang Darbar, a colourful pageant organised on the occasion of spring festival, Holi has historical, cultural and administrative importance. It is, therefore, described in detail below.

The Dangs Darbar, Ahwa—The Dangs Darbar fair is held on the eve of the Holi, i. e., *Phalgun sud* 15 at Ahwa. On account of complete absence of towns or markets in the district and the congregation of tribal people from different parts of the district at Ahwa on the day of the Darbar, traders seem to have found a good field for doing business. The fair has thus come to be associated with the holding of the Darbar of Rajas and Naiks and is held since the British regime on the eve of Holi for distribution of political pensions by the Political Agent during the Pre-Independence days and by the Collector, Dangs after the Independence. It is continued even to-day. About 100 to 150 stalls of utensils, toys, cutlery, articles of bamboo, forest products and household goods are erected. Merchants from the neighbouring districts of Surat, Nasik, and West Khandesh bring most of these articles for sale except those made of bamboo which are products of household industry in the district. Stalls of ready-made garments, brass and copper vessels and ornaments of brass and silver have a special attraction for the Adivasis, as this is the only annual fair which provide them an opportunity for shopping necessities of life. The Adivasi men and women wear ready-made clothes, such as *bandis*, shirts, *dhotis*, blouses and *saris*, which are the main items of their dress. They purchase *kap* (ear-rings), necklaces of coins, hair pins and chains.

STATEMENT VI.1

Operations of Credit Societies—Agricultural and Non-agricultural

Year	No. of socie-ties	No. of mem-bers	Paid-up share capital in Rs.	Working capital in Rs.	Loans ad-vanced in Rs.	Over dues in Rs.	Deposits in Rs.	Reserve and other funds in Rs.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
			A—Agricultural Credit Societies					
1960-61 ..	22	1,070	20,227	1,29,331	..	..	556	4,351
1961-62 ..	23	2,105	22,435	87,813	6,082	..	..	15,401
1962-63 ..	25	3,581	27,720	1,01,066	29,944	1,105	..	25,832
1963-64 ..	28	4,628	37,760	1,87,916	38,865	2,352	..	1,10,812
1964-65 ..	28	5,215	35,040	2,60,838	58,653	5,446	..	203,502
1965-66 ..	28	5,437	36,630	3,04,327	33,528	6,932	..	2,53,756
1966-67 ..	29	4,932	38,840	3,65,777	50,451	13,390	..	3,11,571
1967-68 ..	29	5,198	41,480	5,15,831	58,768	31,291	..	3,63,743
1968-69 ..	30	5,412	43,125	6,17,547	50,910	9,885	..	3,29,987
			B—Non-agricultural Credit Societies					
1960-61 ..	3	238	11,165	16,466	15,315	6,483	4.536	765
1961-62 ..	3	268	11,825	15,3:2	18,725	..	..	806
1962-63 ..	3	373	12,975	24.258	26,645	2,828	..	3.798
1963-64 ..	3	468	18,704	28,712	28 605	6,857	285	3,838
1964 65 ..	3	546	24,055	33,025	24,000	7,326	286	4,084
1965-66 ..	3	557	38,120	50,146	60,625	2,840	2,600	4,426
1966-67 ..	3	499	54,544	67,364	74.790	4,408	3.372	4,448
1967-68 ..	3	535	81,870	1,25,007	1,86,798	1,099	3,326	5,411
1968-69 ..	3	899	1,08,656	1,63.128	1,[illegible],800	3,4[illegible]2	..	8,623

Source :

Co-operative Officer, Dangs, Ahwa

STATEMENT VI-2

Fairs, their Occasion, Site, Time, Congregation and other Particulars

Sl. No.	Name/ occasion	Place where held	Date of fair	Estimated congregation	Activities	(i) Nearest Railway Station (ii) Bus service	Castes / communities participating	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	DANGS TALUKA							
1	Dang Darbar	Ahwa	7 days preceding Holi	20,000-25,000	Folk-dances, songs, ras, garbas, dramas, organised by Education Department. Documentary films. N. E. S. Block and Education Department arrange lectures, etc., agricultural and cattle shows. Sale of crops such as nagli, oil-seeds by barter system. Stalls of household articles, utensils, toys, cutlery, bamboo articles, forest products.	Waghai, 21 ms. Bus	Dangi, Adivasi, Bhil, Kanbi, Vanjara, non-Hindus	The origin of the fair was in practice during the British regime of calling the Dangi Darbar and awarding of Privy Purse amounts to the five Dangi (Adivasi) Rulers and nine Naiks at the hands of the Political Agent. The occasion, coinciding with the only major festival of Holi of the tribal people of the Dangs, came to be celebrated by vast numbers who came from all corners to the district headquarters. Organised by the District Mandal Dangs. Attended by people from the whole district, and merchants and tourists from outside.

2	Badshah Bava Pir Urs	Waghai	Zilhijja	4,000-5,000	Qawwali songs, religious preachings, shramdan. 25-30 stalls of household industry products, miscellaneous articles	Railway Station Bus.	All communities	Worship of Badshah Bava Pir and Saiyad Mohammed Shakir (Zariwala Pir). Held for the past four years. Organised by Muslim Jamat. Attended by people from outside.
3	Weekly Bazar	Galkund	Every Tuesday	1,200	60 stalls of foodgrains, household articles	Waghai, 36 ms. Bus	Kokani, Naik, Mang, Charan, a few non-Hindus	Commercial. Attended by people from 35 surrounding villages. Health centre, mobile dispensary van visits the village on this day.
4	Weekly Bazar	Chinchli	Every Tuesday after monsoon	700-1,000	10-15 stalls of foodgrains, household articles	Waghai. 40 ms. Bus	Adivasis	Commercial. Attended by people from 10-15 surrounding villages.
5	Weekly Bazar	Singana	Every Monday	600-700	8-10 stalls of cutlery, household articles	Navapur, 16 ms. Bus	Adivasis	Commercial. Attended by people from 10-15 surrounding villages.
6	Weekly Bazar	Pipaldahad	Every Sunday	450-500	40 stalls of cutlery, household articles, foodgrains, vegetables	Navapur, 28 ms. Bus	Adivasis	Commercial. Attended by businessmen from Pipalneir and West Khandesh area.
7	Rama fair	Kalibel	Paush Sud 15	300	..	Waghai. 21 ms. Bus	Hindus, 10-15 non-Hindus	At Rama Mandir. Attended by people from neighbouring villages.

Source :

TRIVEDI R. K., Census of India 1961, Vol. V, Gujarat, Part VII—B, *Fairs and Festivals*, (Part II Tables), p. 190.

ANNEXURE I

Government Nagli Depots, Dangs

The poor Adivasis of the district have no business instinct as also no instinct for saving. They sell off their agricultural produce at cheap rates immediately after harvest and spend the money on comparatively less useful items or on drink. Thereafter, they are forced to buy foodgrains from the market at high prices out of the wages earned by hard labour. Cash crops cannot be grown on any appreciable scale in the Dangs because of condition of soil and the backward state of agriculture. It is an irony of fate that the very foodgrains which the Dangis sell away at cheap rate, they are required to buy at high rates later. Many of the Dangis do not have sufficient means to pull on through the summer and the monsoon. They, therefore, borrow *nagli* in that period with a condition to return $\frac{1}{4}$ or $\frac{1}{2}$ more in the next harvest season. This keeps them permanently in debt. In order to help the people, the Dangs Grain Society was started by the Government as far back as 1908 in order to provide grain and money advances at reasonable rates of interest. The main objectives of the society are :

1 to maintain a store of *nagli*, or of other grains if necessary, in the Dangs as an insurance against famine,

2 to loan *nagli* to Dangis at a reasonable rate of interest,

3 to free the Dangis from the grain lenders and *shahukars*,

4 to encourage the habit of thrift among Dangis,

5 to meet the Chiefs' demands for *nagli*, and

6 to loan out money to Dangis for agricultural purposes.

In the initial stages, Government lent Rs. 1,500 for the purchase of 15 *khandis* of *nagli* at $6\frac{1}{4}$ per cent interest. By 1912, this amount together with interest was repaid leaving a balance of 9 *khandis* which was transferred to the society as "Government Share". In 1915 Government again lent Rs. 1,250 to the society without charging any interest for the purchase of *nagli*. This amount was repaid in 1916.

The capital of the society is 100 *khandis* of *nagli* divided into 100 shares of 1 *khandi* each. The Government share amounts to $22\frac{1}{4}$ *khandis*.

ANNEXURE I—*concld.*

For the facility of the people, the society was divided into 26 *nagli* depots long before Independence. The accounts of these depots were maintained by the Forest Department and it was supervised by the Dangs Diwan. After Independence, these depots were taken over by the Revenue Department and since then, their accounts are maintained by the Talatis under the supervision of the Mamlatdar, Dangs. The accounts of these depots are audited by the Co-operative Department. The stock of *nagli* is distributed to the Adivasi agriculturists every year at the time of agricultural operations and is recovered from them in kind at 25 per cent premium as compared to the quantity advanced. Many of the co-operative societies established in the district also store *nagli* and the Government *nagli* stores are, therefore, run with varying degrees of efficiency according to the recoveries effected in the past.

CHAPTER VII

COMMUNICATIONS

ROADS

The main bottleneck in the way of road construction in the Dangs is its topography, i. e., succession of hills and dales and the dense forests which make the task of constructing roads very difficult. The Bhil Chiefs, the original masters of the area, being ignorant and illiterate, did not care for road construction in the Dangs. After the Dangs came under the superintendence of the British on execution of the forest-leases in 1842, some efforts were made to construct earthen (*kutcha*) and fair weather roads to facilitate the transportation of cut timber. However, no substantial progress could be made in this direction till 1880 as will be evident from the following extract from the *Khandesh District Gazetteer*, which states, "Except a forest road, thirty-seven miles long, from Waghai on the west to Tanklipada about twelve miles from the foot of the Khandesh pass, there are no roads practicable for wheeled carriages. There are two timber drags, one running east from the Kakarda Naka about fifteen miles up the Purna valley, and a second running south-east from Waghai about the same distance up the southern branch of the Ambika. There is a track from Tanklipada to Varsa and Pimpalner in Khandesh. These three roads are practicable for small lightly-laden carts. The rest of the routes to Khandesh and Nasik are impassable for carts of any kind. The other timber drags, over the Babulna pass, go into Khandesh by Mulher, and, over the Kanchan and Chip passes into Nasik on to Hatgad. Besides these, there are some country cross roads for foot passengers."[1]

The British Government knew very well the importance of the good roads in the economy of the Dangs. Stress was, therefore, laid on the construction of new roads and repairs to old ones. The following extract from the Working Plan shows the important role the roads played in the improvement of the economy of the Dangs.

> "*Programme of Road Work for the 20 Year Period*—This programme forms an integral part of the plan and must be sanctioned and pushed through to completion as early as possible or the forecast of net revenue will not be realised. In fact, the Plan is more a matter of roads than anything else, the other prescriptions are simple and with a complete system of interior transport linked up to outside communications success will be assured. Moreover all the roads down for

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1. CAMPBELL J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. XII, *Khandesh*, (1880), p. 002.

construction and improvement will be permanently useful, in the following periods as well as the period of fellings now prescribed. For new construction the programme is fairly exhaustive but it will be found that more roads have to be murrumed and metalled than are laid down here. These can only be determined when it is seen how heavily they are used. No large quantity of timber and bamboos can be carried year after year over earth roads, and coupes will not be taken by contractors whose draught animals have to flounder along for miles through ruts and deep dust. The gross revenue of Surat Division has risen from 1 to 6 lakhs in 15 years. No other Division in the Presidency can show such a result, which has been largely brought about by road construction; no area of forest in Bombay has so large a capacity for revenue expansion as the Dang forests still have, and none contains so much mature teak timber going to waste for want of completed communications. When these facts which are open to verification by anyone who chooses to investigate them on the spot—are thus stated by an officer who has been in close touch with the development of the Dangs forests for 12 years of his service, it is merely a matter of business to provide the money for the immediate and sustained expansion of net revenue to which this Plan points the way."

"The following is the programme of (i) new roads, (ii) roads under construction and (iii) roads requiring immediate special improvement. Where all are so badly wanted there can hardly be said to be any order of urgency. It is strongly urged that a sum of Rs. 50,000 be automatically provided each year for road work during the period, of which Rs. 10,000 would be for upkeep, increasing in proportion to the progress made, and the balance for new construction and special improvement."[1]

The British Government was thus very eager to construct roads in the Dangs primarily to facilitate transport of timber cut from the Dangs forests. They were not interested in breaking the socio-economic isolation of the Dangis.

The real beginning in the field of road construction was made only after 1926, as revealed from the extract from the *Annual Administration Report for Dangs* 1926; "An important feature of the year is the commencement of road metalling project in the Dangs. Hitherto all the roads have been earth roads ....".

Thus, road metalling project was started very late in the district. Substantial progress in this direction could not be made and at the time of Independence, the condition of roads in the district was far from satisfactory.

1. MARJORIBANKS G. E., *Working Plan for The Dang Forests*, Bombay, (1926), p. 10

As reported in the Administration Report for the Dangs from August, 1944 to March, 1946, the general improvement of the road system in the Dangs was urgently called for. At the time, there was an excellent net-work of 600 miles of roads—all constructed by the Forest Department. Though all except the main roads from Waghai *via* Malegaon to Nasik district and *via* Ahwa and Subir to West Khandesh district were *kutcha*, their general condition in the fair weather compared very favourably with that of those in the neighbouring jurisdictions. The metalling, however, of a much larger mileage and the provision of bridges in various places were vitally necessary for the proper exploitation of the forests. Though the cost of such works would be very high, it was expected that it would give an ample return in increased revenue from the lease of the forest coupes. In short, the significant fact about the roads in the Dangs is that they were originally constructed by the Forest Department and not by the Public Works Department.[1]

Till 1948, all civil construction works in Dangs were executed by the Forest Department. The Public Works Department was set up in the Dangs in 1949 and nearly 160 kms. of major roads were transferred to this newly started Department from the roads under the Forest Department. During the First Plan, importance was given to the repairs of existing roads. A length of 57·60 kms. was brought under the metalled surface. Another 240 kms. of new roads were constructed, thus bringing the total length of metalled and unmetalled roads under the charge of the Public Works Department to 416·00 kms. Thus, even during the First Five Year Plan, there were very few metalled and all weather roads. This will be evident from the following details given in the First Five Year Plan for the Dangs. "The area is served with a good system of roads certain sections of which are metalled and motorable during all seasons. Almost all the other sections are earth roads spread over with murrum. During the monsoons, a very large part of the areas becomes inaccessible due to unfordable rivers and rivulets which get highly inundated. Even the river becomes uncrossable on ferry boats on account of their rocky bottom, high rapids and deep shallows. The system of road connection is gradually on the progressive side with the ultimate target of providing road communications even to the smallest hamlet through the length and breadth of the district. This is one of the main items of the programme of development activities taken up by the authorities and attempts in this direction progressing quite satisfactorily."[2]

During the Second Plan period, efforts were concentrated on metalling of the surface of the roads so as to render them negotiable throughout the year. During this period, construction of 13 bridges was undertaken. Thus at the end of this Plan, the total length of the roads in the district was

1. *Annual Administration Report for the Dangs*, for August, 1944 to March, 1946, p. 14.

2. *First Five Year Plan*, Dangs, Bombay State, (1954), pp. 3-4.

398·40 kms. of which 59·20 kms., had tar surface, 200 kms., had water bound macadam surface and 139·20 kms., murrum-earthen surface.

During the Third Plan also, schemes for changing the surface of unmetalled roads into metalled and tar surface were continued. Though there is no increase in the total length of roads in the district, the tar surface increased from 59·20 kms. to 108·80 kms., during this period. During the next three years, on the completion of the Third Plan, i. e., 1966-67 to 1968-69, emphasis was continued to be laid on upgrading the surface of the roads, bringing them to the levels of Major District Roads and Other District Roads. On account of heavy rainfall and the flooding of rivers in the district in 1968, considerable damage was caused to the roads and bridges. They were repaired at considerable cost.

The Fourth Five Year Plan commenced from April 1969, and in the first year, upgrading of surface of some roads was undertaken. Thus, the tar roads increased to 139·20 kms. in 1969-70. The increase in the total road length is practically negligible due to the peculiar topography of the district where a limited area of land is available for construction of new roads on account of dense forests and succession of hills and dales. The present position of different types of roads in the Dangs is described below.

Classification of Roads—The present classification of roads is based upon the resolution of the Indian Road Congress passed at its Nagpur Session in 1943. It broadly classifies roads into two types : (1) main roads consisting of National Highways, State Highways and Major District Roads passing throughout the length and breadth of the country and (2) other roads consisting of Other District Roads and Village Roads.

National Highways—National Highways (N. H.) have been defined as main highways serving predominantly national, as distinct from State purposes, running through the length and breadth of India, which together form a system connecting by routes as direct as practicable, major ports, foreign highways, the State capitals and also include those of strategic importance required for the defence of the country. National Highways are maintained by the State Public Works Department from the Central Government funds. These are generally tar roads, with a minimum width of 38 feet or 11·58 metres.

No National Highway passes through this district.

State Highways—State Highways (S. H.) have been defined as all other main, trunk or arterial roads of a State connecting with National Highways, or State Highways of adjacent States, district headquarters and important cities within the State and serving as main arteries of traffic to and from district roads. These roads are maintained by the State Public

Works Department. They have a tar surface and a minimum width of 32 feet or 9·75 metres and are completely motorable throughout the year, except at those places having causeways or submersible bridges where traffic may be interrupted by heavy rainfall in monsoon for a very short period. The State Highways are usually connected with National Highways.

The total length of the State Highways in the district as on 31st March, 1970 was 123·60 kms., of which 102·60 kms., had a metalled surface and the remaining portion of 21 kms. unmetalled surface. At present, there are only two State Highways in the district. A brief description of each of them is given below.

1 *The Waghai-Ahwa-Chinchli-Babul Ghat Road*—This road starts from Waghai and terminates near Babul *Ghat*. It passes through Pimpri, Ahwa, Lashkari Amba and Chinchli, etc., and enters the border of Maharashtra thereafter. High level all weather bridges have been constructed on the Khapri and the Dhamandakhadi rivers on this road.

Its total length in the district is 70·16 kms., of which 38·96 kms., have black-topped surface, 10·20 kms. water-bound-macadam and 21·00 kms. of unmetalled surface in the remaining length. Of the total length, 36·80 kms., i. e., from Waghai upto Lashkari Amba, the road is motorable throughout the year. This is one of the most important roads passing through the district. It connects Ahwa, the district headquarters, with Waghai, the only important railway station in the district.

2 *The Waghai-Nasik Road*—This is another State Highway passing through this district. It starts from Waghai and reaches Saputara on its way, which is being developed as a hill station (*Girinagar*), the first of its kind in the State, and then enters the boundary of Maharashtra State and terminates at Nasik, which is the place of pilgrimage for the Hindus. The length of 53·44 kms., of the road in the district has a black-topped surface and is motorable throughout the year. The road passes through hills on one side and deep valleys on the other. At some places, it also runs on the edge of ravines. The road caters to the tourist traffic of Saputara and to some extent pilgrim traffic to Nasik.

Major District Roads—Major District Roads (M. D. R.) are roughly of the same specifications as the State Highways with this difference that their minimum width is 24 feet or 7·32 metres. They connect important marketing centres with railways, State Highways and National Highways.

In the Dangs district, there are two Major District Roads with a total length of 68·64 kms. Of these, 35·04 kms., have a black-topped surface and the remaining portion of 33·60 kms., water-bound-macadam surface. A brief description of these Major District Roads is given below.

1 *The Ahwa-Navapur Road*—The road starts from Ahwa and after passing through *Ukala Ghat* terminates near Navapur, a town on the border of the Maharashtra State, situated on the Surat-Bhusaval railway line. The total length of the road in charge of the Dangs Sub-division is 38·24 kms., of which 9·44 kms. have a black-topped surface and the remaining 28·80 kms. with water-bound-macadam surface. The road is fully bridged and as such is motorable all the year round.

2 *The Pimpri-Kalibel-Meheskatri-Vyara Road*—It starts from Pimpri and enters the jurisdiction of the Surat district near village Meheskatri. The road terminates at Vyara, which is taluka headquarters in the Surat district. The total length of the road is 30·40 kms., of which 25·60 kms., have tar surface and 4·80 kms. water-bound-macadam. At mile No. 10/6, it crosses the Purna river, where the high level bridge has been constructed. It is an all-weather road.

Other District Roads—Other District Roads are of the same type as Major District Roads, except that they are subject to frequent interruptions of traffic during the rainy season. The total length of these roads in the district is 204·98 kms., of which 12·40 kms. have tar surface, 131·99 kms. have a water-bound-macadam and the remaining 60·59 kms. with unmetalled surface. The statement below shows the name and length of each of the Other District Roads in the district as on 31st March, 1970.

Other District Roads, Dangs, 1969-70

Sl. No.	Name of the Road	Total length kms.	Remarks	
			All-weather kms.	Fair weather kms.
1	Borkhet-Bardipada	36.40	14.80	21.60
2	Ahwa-Galkund-Shamgahan	32.80	23.20	9.60
3	Waghai-Dungarda-Meheskatri	26.80	3.20	23.60
4	Mahal-Subir-Pipaldahad-Warsa	39.00	12.60	26.40
5	Aherdi-Nadakohond	12.40	..	12.40
6	Chikalya-Gadhvi	10.00	..	10.00
7	Bardipada-Suragana	13.39	..	13.39
8	Kalibel-Bardipada	9.20	..	9.20
9	Singana-Dalkha	22.59	..	22.59
10	Ahwa-Plateau	2.40	2.40	..
	Total	204.98	56.20	148.78

Source :

Deputy Engineer, Ahwa Sub-Division, Ahwa.

District Local Board Roads

Besides the above mentioned State Highways, Major District Roads and Other District Roads, which are in charge of the State Public Works Department, there are some village roads in charge of the District Local Board, Dangs, Ahwa. The total length of such roads is 332·20 kms. inclusive of 79·20 kms. of roads transferred to it (the District Local Board) from the Tribal Development Block, Ahwa. These are mostly village approach roads. Out of total length of 332·20 kms. of the District Local Board roads, 0·09 km. has a tar surface, 10·59 kms. have water-bound-macadam surface, 250·18 kms. murrum-surface and the remaining length of 71·34 kms. have earthen surface. These roads are regularly repaired every year after monsoon in order to maintain them in good condition.

Forest Roads

It is significant to note that the roads in the district were first constructed and maintained by the Forest Department for facilitating exploitation of the forest coupes under the forest leases. This position continued till 1948. In 1949, the Public Works Department was set up and the work of road construction and repairs, other than those under the Forest Department was taken up by the Public Works Department.

The total length of such roads in charge of the Divisional Forest Officer, Dangs, Ahwa, are 252·00 kms. Of these only 28·80 kms., have metalled surface and the remaining unmetalled. The total length of roads in the district in charge of the Public Works Department, the Forest Department and the Local Board authorities is given below :

		Length in kms.		
	Particulars	Metalled	Unmetalled	Total
1	Roads in charge of P. W. D.	315.63	81.57	397.20
2	Roads in charge of Forest Department	28.80	223.20	252.00
3	Roads in charge of District Local Board	10.69	321.53	332.22
	Total	355.12	626.30	981.42

Thus, it could be seen that out of a total of 981·42 kms. of roads in the district, only 355·12 kms., or 36·16 per cent have a metalled surface. It is the policy of the Government to upgrade the surface of the existing unmetalled roads in the district so that they can be used for traffic throughout the year.

Road Transport

Road transport is the most important as also the most essential mode of transport for the Dangs district, both for passengers and goods traffic as railway facilities in the district are almost negligible. The Bilimora-

Waghai narrow gauge is the only railway line in the district. Over 5 kms., it has two stations, viz., Dungarda and Waghai. In view of this meagre railway facilities, road transport has assumed special importance.

On account of paucity of the good roads in the past, the district was very poorly served by the road transport. Prior to Independence, Ahwa-Waghai road was the only all weather road in the district. This was also *kutcha*. On this road a private transport company called the Great Eastern Company started operating mail motor service from January, 1939. This company operated bus services on two routes, viz., Ahwa-Bilimora through Waghai and Ahwa-Navapur. These were taken over by the Surat Division of the Bombay State Road Transport Corporation from February, 1953. Motor trucks were also started in the Dangs district for the transportation of timber. A Depot was started at Ahwa from February, 1953. As in other districts the road construction work in the Dangs was expedited after Independence. A number of new roads were constructed and the existing roads were repaired and buses plied on them. At present, Ahwa is directly connected by bus routes with Saputara, a hill resort and other important centres like, Surat, Bilimora and Songadh in the State and with Nasik in Maharashtra. The number of routes operated from the depot at Ahwa increased from 3 in 1953 to 10 in 1969. At present the district is served by 11 routes inclusive of the Ahwa-Nasik route which is operated by the Poona Division of the Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation. The total distance covered by these routes came to 844·19 kms. The number of passengers travelled on an average on these routes excluding the Ahwa-Nasik route was 1,641 in December, 1969. Out of 311 villages, 98 or 31·39 per cent of villages have local bus stands, 41 or 13·14 per cent have bus stands within three kms., 72 or 23·8 per cent have them between 3 and 5 kms., and the remaining 101 or 32·37 per cent villages have them beyond 5 kms. There is only one *pucca* bus station at Ahwa and pick-up stands at Waghai, Shamgahan, Subir and Galkund. A rest-room is provided at Ahwa where the employees could take rest when not on duty. The depot at Ahwa is under the administrative control of the Surat Division of the Gujarat State Road Transport Corporation.

A staff welfare committee functioning at Surat undertakes various welfare activities for the benefit of employees of this district. It provides reading rooms, libraries, sports, recreational activities, etc. Moreover, equipment such as hot water bags, thermometer, etc., are also supplied for the use of the staff members. A dispensary at Surat also caters to the medical requirements of the employees and their members.

RAILWAYS

On account of the peculiar topographical condition of the Dangs, the task of constructing rail lines proved to be very difficult. Till 1969-70, the

district has been served by only one narrow gauge line, i. e., the Bilimora-Waghai section and has two railway stations—Dungarda and Waghai. It is used mainly for despatch of timber from the forests to outside destinations. Waghai serves as a gateway to the Dangs.

The former Baroda State entrusted the construction of the Bilimora-Waghai railways to the former Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railways which operated this railway from Bilimora as part of the B. B. & C. I. Railways. The expenditure incurred for its construction amounted to Rs. 29,74,872. The entire rail line was not constructed at one stretch but by stages from Bilimora. It was declared open by stages between 1914 and 1929. The Baroda Government took over the railway from the B. B. & C. I. Railways in 1921 and worked it as part of the Gaikwar Baroda State Railways. After the Baroda State's merger in 1949, the management of the railways was vested in the Government of India and the Bilimora-Waghai line now forms part of the Western Railways. This branch line starts from Bilimora, which is a station on the Bombay-Baroda broad gauge line and enters the Dangs district near Dungarda station at km. No. 60. The total length of the line is 63 kms. but its length in the district is 5 kms. only.

The line has great economic significance as it helps transhipment of valuable forest products like timber, fire-wood, bamboos, etc., from Dangs to the outside area. The Central Pulp Mills Ltd., at Fort Songadh in the Surat district thrive on the bamboos supplied from the Dangs district and also get cheap labour of the Dangis. Inward traffic in the district mainly consists of cement and foodgrains. Waghai, which is the terminus station on this line has great importance as a timber exporting centre. While the line has little importance for passenger traffic, from the view point of goods traffic, it plays an important role in the economic life of the people of the district.

The number of passengers travelled and goods hauled at these two stations during 1969 are shown below :

Passenger and Goods Traffic, 1969

Name of the railway line	Stations	Passenger Traffic	Goods Traffic
1	2	3	4
Bilimora-Waghai ..	Dungarda	8,288	97 Wagons
	Waghai	40,689	1,356 Wagons

The main outward traffic at Waghai relates to timber, while from Dungarda firewood is sent out. The main inward goods traffic at Waghai consists of foodgrains, cement and other general goods, while at Dungarda there is no inward goods traffic.

The running of this railway contributes substantially to the railway revenue by way of freight charges because of transportation of timber and firewood from the Dangs forests. Railways also face competition in the form of diversion of a part of goods and passenger traffic on account of the operations of private trucks and State Transport carriers.

Other Vehicles

Other vehicles in the district are motor trucks, private cars, motor cycles, tractors and tractor trailers, ambulance van, etc. Their strength as on 31st March, 1969 is given below :

Sl. No.	Name of vehicles	Number
1	Motor trucks	51
2	Private cars	25
3	Motor cycles	10
4	Tractors	3
5	Tractor trailers	4
6	Ambulance cars	2
7	Others	1
	Total	**96**

The above statistics show that the number of goods vehicles was the highest due to the heavy timber traffic. The next in importance are the private cars and motor cycles, which are useful for quick movement from one place to another by contractors and civil servants.

Beasts of Burden

The following statement shows the various types of beasts of burden in the district according to Livestock Census of 1966 :

Sl. No.	Category	Number
1	Bullocks	19,890
2	Male buffaloes	3,122
3	Horses and ponies	24
4	Donkeys	68

Source :

Quarterly Bulletin of Economics and Statistics, Vol. IX, January-March, ([illegible]), pp. 120-121.

The statement reveals that except the bullocks and male buffaloes, the strength of other types of beasts of burden is very negligible.

BRIDGES AND CAUSEWAYS

Bridges and causeways play a very important role in the transport system of the region. Fully bridged roads are of great economic significance as they ensure negotiability of roads throughout the year and avoid interruptions to traffic, both passenger and goods.

In the Dangs district, considerable importance was attached to the programme of bridge construction in successive Five Year Plans. Bridges and causeways have thus been constructed on the Purna, the Khapri, the Ambika and other rivers. In the result, the important roads in the district, e. g., Ahwa-Waghai-Bilimora, Waghai-Nasik, Ahwa-Navapur and Pimpri-Kalibel, etc., have been fully bridged and are motorable all the year round.

The following statement shows the bridges and causeways maintained respectively by the Public Works and Forest Departments.

STATEMENT VII-1

Bridges and Causeways, 1969-70 under the Public Works Department

Sl. No.	Bridge / Causeways	Name of the Road	Category of Road	River / Nullah on which situated	Length of Bridge / Causeways in metres	Approximate cost of construction	Year of construction	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Causeway ..	Waghai-Nasik	S. H.	Shamgahan nullah	18.29	40,830.00	1957-58	
2	„	Do.	S. H.	Kunda nullah	24.69	46,520.00	1958-59	
3	„ ..	Waghai-Ahwa Kekid causeway	S. H.	Ambika river	70.71	3,00,000.00	1958-59	
4	Bridge ..	Waghai-Nasik (Chikhalda Nullah bridge)	S. H.	Tributary of Ambika river	60.96	1,76,488.00	1959-60	
5	„ ..	Ahwa-Galkund-Shamgahan in East Galkund	O. D. R.	Khapri river	109.73	1,35,180.00	1962-63	
6	„ ..	Do. in West Galkund	„	„	32.92	53,293.00	1962-63	
7	„ ..	Do.	„	Taklipada nullah	36.58	65,607.00	1961-62	
8	„ ..	Do.	„	Jukhana nullah	27.43	66,700.00	1962-63	
9	„ ..	Do.	„	Khapri river (Ranidhad bridge)	76.20	2,10,025.00	1962-63	
10	„ ..	Do.	O. D. R.	Khapri river (Bhusda bridge)	96.01	2,48,410.00		Proper bridge is completed, on account of submergence of the bridge in flood of 1968, construction of an additional span to the bridge is in progress.

11	" ..	Pimpri-Kalibel-Mehes-katri-Vyara	M. D. R.	Purna river	121.92	3,01,016.00	1962-63	
12	" ..	Ahwa-Navapur	"	"	96.01	2,40,263.00	1963-64	
13	" ..	Do.	"	Dhodher	100.58	2,19,503.00	1962-63	
14	" ..	Do.	"	Gira	100.58	2,22,105.00	1962-63	
15	Causeway ..	Do.	"	Payerchand nullah	18.29	..	..	
16	Bridge ..	Borkhet-Bardipada	O. D. R.	Purna river Mahal bridge	118.87	3,02,450.00	1969-70	
17	" ..	Waghai-Ahwa	S. H.	Khapri river (Kudkash bridge)	128.02	6,23,034.00	..	The bridge is practically completed.
18	" ..	Do.	"	Dhamanda Khadi	52.12	1,32,657.00	1960-61	
19	" ..	Waghai-Nasik	"	Ambika river	54.86	1,63,009.00	1962-63	
20	" ..	Do.	"	"	109.73	44,124.00	1963-64	
21	" ..	Do.	"	"	52.73	..	1958-59	

Source : Deputy Engineer, Roads and Buildings, Dangs, Ahwa.

Bridges and Causeways, 1970-71

(Under Forest Department)

Sl. No.	Bridge / Causeways	Name of the Road	Category of roads	River / Nullah on which situated	Length of bridge in metres	Cost of construction	Year of construction	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Bridge ..	Devipada-Hadkai-chond	*Kutcha* road	On a small nullah about 1.0 km. from Devipada	4.5	..	..	
2	Bridge Mogradevi	Mahal-Kalibel	Murrum and metal	Purna river nullah Mogradevi	12.00			Special repairs carried out during 1968-69 and 1969-70 at a cost of Rs. 18,992.
3	Humepipe causeway	Vadthal-Bhavan-daged	Murrum and *kutcha* road	Nullah	18.00	9,628.00	1968-69	
4	Timber Tap culverts	,,	,,	,,	5.00	7,220.00	,,	
5	R. C. C. Slab culverts	,,	,,	,,	8.00	4,598.00	1962-63	
6	Timber Tap culverts	Borkhal-Halbari	,,	,,	8.00	995.00	1966-67	
7	,,	,,	,,	,,	3.00	Not known	Not known	
8	,,	,,	,,	,,	2.5	,,	,,	

9	Bridge R. C. C. culverts	Laochali-Chinchli	Metalled road	Padalkhadi meeting to Purna river	7.60	7,980.00	1961-62	
10	Bridge R. C. C. culverts	Laochali-Chinchli	Metalled road	Bhurkhadi nullah meeting to Purna river	17.55	18,672.00	1963-64	
11	,,	,,	,,	,,	35	7,760.00	1969-70	
12	Culvert ..	Mahal-Kalibel	Water bound macadam	Morapani nullah	9.45	10,129.00	1967-68	Timber taps mosonry iron girders.

Source :
Divisional Forest Officer, Dangs, Ahwa.

REST-HOUSES

The State Government maintains at different places in the district three types of rest-houses, viz., Atithi Griha, Vishram Griha and Aram Griha. The Atithi Griha formerly known as the Circuit House, is a rest-house of the first rank; the Vishram Griha formerly called a guest-house, is a rest-house of the second category; while Aram Griha formerly known as a rest-house falls under the third category. Lodging facilities are provided mainly for officers of various Government departments touring the district in the course of their duties. Some of these are also open to the public, preference generally being given to Government servants on duty. All types of rest-houses are generally well furnished with cots, fans, crockery, mattresses, tables, chairs and other articles. Besides tea and breakfast, meals are also provided in the Atithi Griha and Vishram Griha on payment. The Dangs district being primarily a forest area, the Forest Department maintains rest-houses at important places in the district. The District Local Board, Dangs has also constructed rest-houses at important places in the district for the convenience of travellers. The following statement gives the list of rest-houses maintained respectively by the Public Works Department, the Forest Department and the District Local Board in the district.

Guest/Rest/houses in Dangs, 1970

Public Works Department	Forest Department	District Local Board
Ahwa		
1 Guest-house	1 Ahwa (Rest-house)	1 Ahwa (Pravasi Griha)
2 Rest-house	2 Pandva ,,	2 Waghai ,,
	3 Bardipada ,,	3 Saputara ,,
	4 Jhauda ,,	
	5 Pimpri ,,	
	6 Sarowar ,,	
	7 Laochali ,,	
	8 Subir ,,	
	9 Galkund ,,	
	10 Manmodi ,,	
	11 Waghai ,,	
	12 Borkhal ,,	
	13 Sunda ,,	
	14 Mahal ,,	
	15 Kalibel ,,	
	16 Gadhvi ,,	
	17 Pipalaidevi ,,	
	18 Chinchli ,,	
	19 Pipaldahad ,,	
	20 Malegaon ,,	
	21 Chikhali ,,	
	22 Sakarpatal ,,	

POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS

For administrative convenience of the posts and telegraphs, the Dangs district has been placed under the Superintendent of Post Offices, Bulsar Division, Bulsar. He carries out the supervision of the posts offices under his charge. The Inspector of Post Offices, Dangs sub-division, at Bansda assists him in the work.

The district at present is served by three sub-post offices, one each at Ahwa (1938), Waghai (1964) and Saputara (1970). Of these, the post office at Ahwa possesses both telegraph and telephone facilities besides the normal postal services, that at Waghai only telephone facility and that at Saputara has only normal postal services. Thus, there is only one telegraph office at Ahwa and two telephone offices each at Ahwa and Waghai. Besides these, there are 32 branch post offices in the district. The first branch office in the district was opened at Pipaldahad in 1957. Thereafter, the development of postal services was accelerated by opening 31 branch offices at different places in the district between 1957 and 1968. On account of the fact that the major portion of the area is covered with dense forests and as the villages are scattered and very thinly populated, it is not a paying proposition to expand postal facilities. Moreover, many of the villages are situated in dense forests and are inaccessible and confrontation with wild animals is not uncommon. These factors have impeded the growth of postal services in the district. It is significant to note that all the post offices in the Dangs are run at a loss and are maintained under the ' Pooling System ' of the Department. Out of 311 villages only 35 villages are provided with post offices.

The following statement gives an idea about the working of the posts and telegraphs offices in the district. as on 31st March, 1970.

1	No. of sub-post offices	3
2	No. of branch offices	32
3	No. of telegraph office	1
4	No. of postmen	
	(i) Departmental	10
	(ii) Extra-Departmental Agents engaged in delivering the posts	36
5	No. of Villages with Post Offices	35
6	No. of Villages without Post Offices	276

TELEPHONES

There is one telephone exchange at Ahwa and one trunk public call office at Waghai in the district. Thus, the telephone facility is available in the district only at two places.

RADIO WIRELESS

There is no broadcasting station in the district. Radio receiving sets, which began to be used in the early thirties of this century, are becoming increasingly popular day by day. The total number of radio licence holders in the district as on 31st March, 1970 was 764. Wireless sets are provided in the forest areas of the district for quick relay of information regarding the occurrences of fires.

RURAL BROADCASTING

The objective in the Third Five Year Plan was to make the internal coverage of broadcasting more effective by expanding the medium wave broadcast services so as to increase awareness of the village-folk about the efforts made by Government for raising their standard of living and also to explain to them the various measures undertaken for their well-being. For rural areas, expansion of facilities under the community listening scheme was envisaged.

In order to disseminate the news about the development programmes and important happenings in the State and the country, the Rural Broadcasting Division of the Directorate of Information, Government of Gujarat has been entrusted with the expansion and maintenance of the Community Listening Scheme, more commonly called the Contributory Scheme. Under this scheme, the radio sets are installed in the villages of Gujarat State on contributory basis, i. e., the villages bear a part of expenditure towards the installation and maintenance of sets. Until recently, the installation contribution for an electrically operated set was Rs. 150 per set and that for battery-operated set was Rs. 175. The maintenance contribution was Rs. 60 per year per set. The number of radio sets installed in the Dangs district under the scheme was 82 as on 31st January, 1970.

The Government has, of late, modified the scheme whereunder the villages which are situated in the economically backward talukas, which include the Dangs district, will bear two-third of the cost of the radio set, i. e., they are eligible to get ⅓rd of the actual cost or Rs. 150 whichever is less as Government contribution. Under the revised scheme, the rate of maintenance contribution per set per year is raised to Rs. 75 from Rs. 60 for a transistorised set and Rs. 150 for battery-operated set. The rate of

maintenance contribution for an electrically-operated set remains the same, i. e., Rs. 60 per set per year.

Radio communication which has both educative and informative value, has proved to be a very powerful medium for mass communication and the scheme of rural broadcasting has helped dissemination of knowledge regardiing the latest know-how especially in agriculture and other fields.

CHAPTER VIII

MISCELLANEOUS OCCUPATIONS

Distribution of workers according to Occupational divisions :

The two concepts 'industry' and 'occupation' are quite distinct, though they are mistaken for each other. 'Industry' signifies that sector of economic activity in which the earner is engaged such as textile industry, automobile industry, etc., whereas the term 'occupation' connotes the exact function that a person performs in that economic activity, as fitter, blacksmith, wiremen, etc.

The following statement classifies the occupations of persons at work other than cultivation according to the Census of 1961.

STATEMENT VIII·1

Occupational Classification of Persons at Work other than Cultivation, 1961

Sl. No.	Category	Total	Percentage	Males	Females
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Professional, technical and related workers ..	349	7.68	282	67
2	Administrative, executive and managerial workers	403	8.87	395	8
3	Clerical and related workers	406	8.94	400	6
4	Sales workers	348	7.66	320	28
5	Farmers, fishermen, hunters, loggers and related workers	1,242	27.34	1,148	94
6	Miners, quarrymen and related workers ..	167	3.68	82	85
7	Workers in transport, storage and communication occupations	152	3.35	152	..
8	Craftsmen, production process workers and labourers, not classified elsewhere ..	1,116	24.56	809	307
9	Service, sports and recreation workers ..	334	7.35	281	53
10	Workers not classified by occupations .	26	0.57	19	7

Source : *District Census Handbook*, 1961, Dangs.

The important categories of occupations besides agriculture were farmers, fishermen, hunters, loggers and related workers (27·34 per cent), craftsmen, production process workers, not elsewhere classified (24·56 per cent), clerical and related workers (8·94 per cent) and administrative, executive and managerial workers (8·87 per cent). These occupations together claimed 69·71 per cent of total workers in the district.

The remaining professions in the district were (i) professional, technical and related workers 7·68 per cent, (ii) sales workers (7·66 per cent), (iii) service, sports and recreation workers (7·35 per cent), (iv) miners, quarrymen and related workers, (3·68 per cent), (v) workers in transport and communication occupations (3·35 per cent), whereas workers not classified by occupations fromed a totally insignificant proportion to the total workers.

The Housing and Establishments Census conducted for the first time in 1961 supplies some very interesting and instructive data about the industrial establishments in the Dangs district and the number of persons employed by them as given in the following statement.

STATEMENT VIII·2

Industrial Establishments, 1961

Sl. No.	Description	No. of units	No. of persons employed
1	2	3	4
1	Manufacture of sundry hardware	44	44
2	Making of textile garments	10	28
3	Repairing and servicing of motor vehicles	7	17
4	Production of rice, *atta*, flour, etc.	5	15
	Total	*66*	*104*
	Others	10	29
	Grand Total	**76**	**133**

Source :
Census of India, 1961, Vol. V, Gujarat, Part IV-A, *Report on Housing and Establishments*, (1963), p. 258.

The total number of industrial establishments in the district was 76 providing employment to 133 persons. Manufacture of sundry hardware is the only important industry in the district followed by those relating to textile garments. Even though the Dangs is an economically backward district, there are seven industrial units for servicing and repairing

of motor vehicles, mainly of trucks engaged in the transfer of wood, bamboos from the Dangs forests to outside destinations. Since the district is entirely hilly forest area, it is not a paying proposition to establish industries except those relating to the timber.

Public Administration

Jobs in public administrative services are highly valued by the educated and the uneducated persons alike, because of the security of employment and other amenities they provide. The 1961 Census has returned 327 persons engaged in various branches of public administration, as under :

Number of Persons engaged in Administrative Services, 1961

Sl. No.	Occupations	Males	Females	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1	Administrators and executive officials ..	324	3	327
2	Administrators and executive officials of State Government	26	..	26
3	Village officials	298	3	301

Source :
District Census Handbook, 1961, *Dangs*.

Amenities to Public Servants

Besides providing for such allowances as dearness, house rent, etc., the State Government has made provisions for grant of festival advances as also loans for constructing residential buildings. Facility of residential accomodation is provided in deserving cases. Government considers loan applications from its employees for purchase of vehicles. Besides travel concessions, Government servants and members of their families enjoy free medical treatment at Government hospitals or other institutions authorised by Government in this behalf. They are allowed reimbursement of expenses incurred for treatment and concessions of leave on average pay are also granted to Government servants suffering from tuberculosis for a period of one year and extraordinary leave for tweleve months is granted in special cases. In addition, sanatorium charges inclusive of those for ordinary diet, specialised medicines, and laboratory examinations are also made available to the Government servants subject to the limits prescribed during the period of convalescence. Because of the extreme backwardness of tribal area, bad climate and difficult living conditions, Government have given certain special concessions to Government servants in the Dangs. They are given rent free quarters, and for this purpose a large number of staff quarters have been constructed in the Dangs by various Government departments. Those who are transferable from non-tribal areas to the Dangs get the tribal allowance. Dang allowance is also paid to non-Dangi employees serving in the district.

The number of persons engaged in certain miscellaneous occupations, selected from among those other than cultivation in the Dangs district at the time of 1961 Census are given in the following statement.

STATEMENT VIII.3

Number of Persons engaged in Selected Occupations, 1961

Sl. No.	Name of the Occupation	Males	Females	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1	Physicians, surgeons and dentists	10	..	10
2	Nurses, pharmacists and other medical and health technicians	31	19	50
3	Teachers	173	37	210
	(a) Teachers, secondary schools	5	..	5
	(b) Teachers, middle and primary schools ..	159	37	196
	(c) Teachers (others)	9	..	9
4	Jurist	1	..	1
5	Arts, Letters and Science	67	11	78
	(a) Architects, engineers, surveyors ..	34	..	34
	(b) Biologists, veterinarians, agronomists and related workers	5	..	5
	(c) Social Scientists and related workers..	18	9	27
	(d) Draftsmen and science and engineering technicians n. e. c.	7	..	7
	(e) Other professional, technical and related workers	3	2	5
6	Administrators and executive officials of Government	324	3	327
7	Tailors, cutters, furriers and related workers ..	36	..	36
8	Millers, bakers, brewmasters and related food and beverage workers	6	..	6
9	House-keepers, cooks, maids and related workers	118	36	154
10	Barbers, hair-dressers, beauticians and related workers	13	..	13
11	Launderers, dry cleaners and pressers ..	4	2	6

NOTE : n. e. c. = not elsewhere classified.

Source :

District Census Handbook 1961, Dangs.

Persons working as administrators and executive officials of Government (327) and those engaged as teachers (210) claim the largest number. Other important occupations include, housekeepers, cooks, maids and related workers (154), arts, letters and science (78), and nurses, pharmacists and other medical and health technicains (50) in order.

Workers in the following occupations such as jurists, biologists, veterinarians, agronomists and related workers, draftsmen and science and engineering technicians not classified elsewhere, other professional, technical and related workers, millers, bakers, brewmasters and related food and beverage workers, barbers, hair-dressers, beauticians and related workers, launderers, dry cleaners and pressers were found in small numbers in the district, showing the relative socio-economic backwardness of this district as compared to others in the State.

LEARNED PROFESSIONS

Teachers

The Census of 1961 has returned a total of 210 teachers, of whom 201 were engaged in the primary, middle and secondary schools and 9 as teachers not classified elsewhere. The teaching profession had 173 males and 37 females. Not a single woman teacher was found in the secondary school.

Legal

Only one legal practitioner has been found practising in the Dangs as on 31st December, 1969.

Medicine

According to the 1961 Census, there were 60 persons (41 men and 19 women) in the district engaged in the medical profession and other health serivces. Their break-up is given below.

Sl. No.	Groups	Males	Females	Total
1	Physicians, surgeons and dentists . ..	10	..	10
2	Nurses, pharmacists and other medical and health technicians	31	19	50
	Total	41	19	60

Source :
District Census Handbook 1961, Dangs.

ARTS, LETTERS AND SCIENCE

Persons returned under arts, letters and science were found in the following occupations at the Census of 1961.

STATEMENT VIII.4

Persons engaged in Arts, Letters and Science

Sl. No.	Occupations	Males	Females	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1	Architects, engineers and surveyors ..	34	..	34
2	Biologists, veterinarians, agronomists and related scientists	5	..	5
3	Social scientists and related workers ..	18	9	27
4	Artists, writers and related workers ..	..	..	..
5	Draftsmen and science and engineering technicians	7	..	7
6	Other professional, technical and related workers	3	2	5
	Total	**67**	**11**	**78**

Source :
District Census Handbook 1961, Dangs.

Among the persons pursuing learned professions, those returned as architects, engineers and surveyors were the largest followed by those engaged as social scientists and related workers. The Census also revealed that not a single person followed the profession of an artist or a writer. Except for 9 women workers returned as social scientists and related workers, no other profession had any woman worker in the district.

CHAPTER IX

ECONOMIC TRENDS

LIVELIHOOD PATTERN

In any study of economic growth, man-power plays a vital role. The livelihood pursuits of the people of any region and the nature and variety of occupations followed by them are conditioned by the stages of economic development and the extent to which available resources are exploited for industrial and agronomic growth.

The economy and livelihood patterns of the people of the Dangs district are forest-based. Dangis are mostly Bhils, Konkani, Kunbis, Warlis, Gamits and others. Except Bhils, rest of the tribes are mainly agriculturists. But the nature of soil in Dangs coupled with primitive methods of cultivation does not permit of production sufficient even for the population in the district. Since the land available for cultivation is not sufficient, agriculture alone cannot provide full-time employment all the year round. The Dangis, therefore, have to supplement their incomes by forest labour. Of the 54·72 per cent of its active population engaged in gainful economic pursuits, 48·37 per cent are engaged in agriculture and other allied primary activities. On the basis of work, the general population of the district has been divided into two broad categories of workers and non-workers by the 1961 Census. Out of the total population of 71,567 persons in the district, the number of persons engaged in some kind of economic activity or gainful employment was 39,161, while that of non-workers was 32,406. The ratio of workers to non-workers varied from 54·72 to 45·28, as against the corresponding ratio of 41·07 to 58·93 for the Gujarat State. These figures indicate that the proportion of economically active population in the district was higher than that in the State as a whole.

The workers were, on the basis of economic activities pursued, classified into the following nine industrial categories by the 1961 Census.

STATEMENT IX·1

Category of Workers and Percentage to Total, 1961

Sl. No.	Category of workers	Working population: Males	Females	Total	Percentage to total workers
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	As cultivators	13,824	12,267	26,091	66.62
2	As agricultural labourers ..	4,288	4,239	8,527	21.77

STATEMENT IX·1—*concld.*

Sl. No.	Category of workers	Working population Males	Females	Total	Percentage to total workers
1	2	3	4	5	6
3	In mining, quarrying, livestock, forestry, fishing, hunting, plantations, orchards and allied activities ..	1,327	195	1,522	3.89
4	At household industry	324	112	436	1.11
5	In manufacturing other than household industry	38	4	42	0.11
6	In construction	284	32	316	0.81
7	In trade and commerce ..	367	29	396	1.01
8	In transport and communications	177	25	202	0.52
9	Other services	1,371	258	1,629	4.16
	Total workers	**22,000**	**17,161**	**39,161**	**100.00**

Source :
District Census Handbook 1961, Dangs, B-Economic Tables, p. 15.

These figures reveal that males preponderate in the working population as compared to women. 88·39 per cent of working population are engaged as cultivators or agricultural labourers as against 68·09 per cent in the whole State. The proportion of workers engaged in the agricultural pursuits exceeds that of the State by 20·30 per cent. The economy of this district is entirely rural, backward and predominantly tribal. The remaining categories of workers in mining, quarrying, livestock, forestry, fishing, household industry, manufacturing, construction, etc., accounted for 11·61 per cent, among whom " other services " accounted for 4·16 per cent, followed by mining, quarrying, livestock, forestry, fishing, hunting, plantations, orchards and allied activities 3·89 per cent and household industry 1·11 per cent. But the manufacturing industry claimed only 0·11 per cent as the industrial potential has not been developed. Trade and commerce accounted for 1·01 per cent, construction workers 0·81 per cent and transport and communications 0·52 per cent.

To sum up, the Census data has revealed that cultivation, agricultural labour and forest labour provide gainful employment to the Dangis but not necessarily for the whole year. By and large, this employment is as unskilled labourers. In the absence of any forest-based industries, the Dangis

have not developed technical skills. Agriculture continues more or less in a primitive stage, although, there are a few purple patches covered by the modern methods of agriculture under the Community Development Programme.

HOUSEHOLD AND NON-HOUSEHOLD INDUSTRIES

A household industry is an industry not run on the scale of a registered factory, and is carried on by the head of the household at home or within the village in rural areas where the need for keeping salaried workers is almost negligible. Among those engaged in non-agricultural pursuits, 436 were engaged in household industry and 4,107 in non-household industries. Workers engaged in household industry were classified as follows according to their employment status into (a) employees and (b) "others" at the Census of 1961.

Of the 436 persons engaged in household industry, only 4·59 per cent were employees. The predominance of 'others', i. e., 95·41 per cent of self-employed persons and their family members and relatively low strength of hired labour and employees were the salient features of household employment in this district. The seasonal or permanent nature of employment that this sector offered during 1961, may be known by the number of workers engaged and the periods of their working.

These figures throw valuable light on the permanent nature of employment household industries offer. On the basis of 20 per cent sample survey conducted during the 1961 Census, 38 households worked for a period from 10 to 12 months and 10 each worked for 7 to 9 months, 4 to 6 months and 1 to 3 months and 1 for unspecified period.

The employment status of persons engaged in non-household industries in the district was broadly classified by the 1961 Census into (a) employers, 2·43 per cent, (b) employees, 53·69 per cent, (c) single workers 37·35 per cent, and (d) family workers 6·53 per cent. A single worker is a person who works for himself, but not as head of a household in household industry. He is not employed by anyone else and in turn does not employ anyone, not even members of his household except casually. A family worker is a member of a household working without receiving wages either in cash or kind in industry, business or trade, conducted mainly by members of the family, who ordinarily put in work at least for one hour daily during the working season.

PRINCIPAL AND SECONDARY WORK

There are some persons in working population, who are engaged in more than one productive activities classified into principal and secondary

work. The principal work is the one on which a person spends most of his time, while the secondary work is one which is next in importance to the principal work.

Persons doing Secondary Work, 1961

(A) Persons working principally as cultivators and doing secondary work.

(i) at household industry	151
(ii) as agricultural labourers	3,287

Persons working principally as agricultural labourers and doing secondary work.

(i) at household industry	28
(ii) as cultivators	121

Persons working principally at household industry and doing secondary work.

(i) as cultivators	11
(ii) as agricultural labourers	28

(B) Persons working in non-household industry, trade, business, profession or service, who are also engaged in household industry are 7.

Out of 26,091 persons engaged in cultivation, 13·17 per cent did some secondary work, 12·60 per cent worked as agricultural labourers and 0·57 per cent was found in household industry. Agricultural labourers as well as those engaged in household industry preferred to take up cultivation to supplement their earnings. The complementary nature of cultivation, agricultural labour and household industry, particularly in this district, is firmly established by the above analysis. Very few engaged in non-household industries, trade, business, profession or service, took up household industry as secondary work as could be seen from the foregoing data.

NON-WORKERS

According to 1961 Census, the number of non-workers, i. e., those not engaged in any economic activity was 32,406 (15,418 males and 16,988 females). They covered students, dependents, infants, disabled and retired persons, rentiers, beggars, vagrants, etc.

The distribution pattern of non-workers according to the type of activity performed by males and females is very dissimilar. The Census had returned among the non-workers, 18·28 per cent male students against only 5·99 per cent female students and dependent males 82·26 per cent against 74·52 per cent among females respectively. Relatively higher percentage of male dependents is brought about by the general absence of household duties among the stronger sex claiming only 1·18 per cent in this category as against 19·42 per cent females. The Dangs district is purely a rural area, therefore, the women-folk in the villages while attending to their daily household chores also participate in agriculture and household industry. Male students outnumber female students which is obviously the result of age-old social inhibitions and beliefs, which differentiate between the two sexes in the matter of education. The percentage of unemployed persons seeking work is very small for males and nil for females.

PRICES

Price mechanism is influenced by the law of demand and supply. Impact of prices is felt on the economy and is reflected in the level of living of the people of a region. Their role is not passive showing indices reflecting only the changes in the price levels, but active, causing far-reaching changes in the total economic activities of the people, which may either cause recession or stimulation of economic growth. Prior to Independence, the Dangs with its peculiar geographic isolation, administrative set-up, and economic backwardness, had perhaps no price structure as such, because of the predominance of the barter economy. Moreover, on account of paucity of material on the subject unlike other districts it is not possible to prepare a consistent history of prices. But the price trends noticed in the adjoining districts of Khandesh, Nasik and Surat may be taken as a guide in determining the price-trends in the Dangs. For this purpose figures of some articles for certain years, as given in the old Bombay Gazetteers for Nasik, Khandesh and Surat districts are reproduced below.

Produce Prices in Nasik District

(LBS. PER RUPEE)

Commodity	Year					
	1832-1843		1844-1853	1854-1863		1864-1873
Millet ..	80		73½	54¾		29
Wheat ..	72½		62½	51¾		23½
Rice .	37½		32½	28		18½
Gram ..	72½		64½	50		26½
	1874	1875	1876	1877	1878	1879
Millet ..	43½	36	30	24½	24	25¼
Indian millet	47¾	44½	37	24½	20¾	29
Wheat ..	34½	30½	28½	22	18	19½
Rice ..	21½	20¾	19½	16¾	14¾	16½
Pulse (*tur*)	24½	27	22	16¼	16	16¼

"The American war between 1860 and 1862 by cheapening money and narrowing the area under cereals raised the value of grain, and in 1863, combining with a bad harvest, forced prices to a famine level; a local failure of crops in 1869 that raised millet to twenty-seven pounds, and another failure in 1871 that raised it from thirty-three to thirty pounds; next the famine of 1876 and 1877 so drained food supplies that grain was dearer in 1878 than during the seasons of local failure."[1]

In the following statement, details of the prices of the chief cereals and pulses and of cotton in Khandesh district are given for some selected years.

1. CAMPBELL J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. XVI, *Nasik*, (1883), pp. 123.

STATEMENT IX.2

Produce Price in Khandesh District

(POUNDS FOR THE RUPEE)

Chief cereals and pulses	1827	1832	1836	1840	1845	1850	1855	1861	1866	1870	1874	1875	1876	1877	1878	1879
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Millet	90	144	62	102½	91½	85½	76	32	56	44	63½	60	47	27	28½	31¼
Wheat 1st sort	52½	66½	56½	49	68	58	60	28	26	20	30½	34½	34½	22	17	19½
Wheat 2nd sort	53	67	58½	36	70	60½	62	32	30	22	40	36	36	23	17½	21½
Rice 1st sort	17½	27	22	24	33	27½	28	17½	11	15	$16\frac{7}{16}$	$16\frac{7}{16}$	16	14½	11¼	14½
Rice 2nd sort	28	31	24	26	35	31	32	19	13	20	21	21	21	20	15½	17½
Pulse (*tur*)	45	45	46	37½	32	35	46	24	14½	16½	24½	31½	29	19½	14½	16½
Raw Cotton	14	12	8	10	8	10	8	8	5	4½	6	5	5	5	3	5

Source :
CAMPBELL J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. XII, *Khandesh*, (1880).

On account of several seasons of poor crops and bad harvests, American Civil War, introduction of railways and the public works, the price trends fluctuated. This trend was accentuates by four bad harvests followed by almost famine conditions in 1868, 1871, 1876 and 1877.

The following statement gives the prices of the staple products of Surat district from 1824 to 1876.

STATEMENT IX.3

Statement showing the number of Pounds of the Staple product sold for two Shillings, one rupee

First period from 1824 to 1842

Name of Product	1824	1825	1826	1827	1828	1829	1830	1831	1832	1833	1834	1835	1836	1837	1838	1839	1840	1841	1842
Raw cotton, *kapas*	10	..	11	12	12	12	12	12	12	11	11	12	12	12	11	11	12	12	11
Millet, *juwar* ..	40	40	40	41	41	40	40	41	40	40	38	40	35	40	56	56	45	45	56
Wheat, 1st sort	45	43	45	44	45	45	45	44	44	45	44	45	38	45	40	45	38	38	40
Wheat, 2nd sort	48	48	46	46	48	48	48	46	48	48	46	48	40	48	43	48	40	40	43
Rice, 1st sort ..	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	38	36	35	35	35	33	33	34	33	37	34	34
Rice, 2nd sort ..	38	38	38	38	38	39	38	38	39	39	38	38	35	35	36	35	38	36	36
Pulse, *tuver* ..	38	37	38	38	36	38	37	38	38	36	38	37	37	29	23	23	29	37	37

Second period from 1843 to 1854 / Third period from 1855 to 1860

Name of Product	1843	1844	1845	1846	1847	1848	1849	1850	1851	1852	1853	1854	1855	1856	1857	1858	1859	1860
Raw cotton, *kapas*	11	12	12	12	9	9	9	9	9	12	9	7	7	9	9	7	7	8
Millet, *juwar* ..	61	96	74	50	60	96	86	50	74	60	74	66	43	43	47	43	47	47
Wheat, 1st sort ..	45	60	30	28	34	46	46	43	46	46	54	40	40	35	38	38	38	33
Wheat, 2nd sort	48	66	38	33	38	50	50	50	50	50	63	44	46	52	46	62	44	39
Rice, 1st sort ..	34	36	36	26	30	32	28	28	28	27	33	36	24	30	23	24	21	15
Rice, 2nd sort ..	36	50	50	37	40	43	36	36	40	39	45	40	40	38	40	31	36	25
Pulse, *tuver* ..	40	33	33	30	36	50	38	40	38	38	46	31	28	35	38	33	30	24

STATEMENT IX·3—*concld.*

Name of product	Fourth period from 1861 to 1866						Fifth period from 1867 to 1876									
	1861	1862	1863	1864	1865	1866	1867	1868	1869	1870	1871	1872	1873	1874	1875	1876
Raw cotton, *kapas*	7	4	2½	1	1	1	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	..
Millet, *juwar*	31	40	19	14	17	30	24	24	27	19	23	26	32	34	33	34
Wheat, 1st sort	28	33	19	14	14	11	19	16	17	14	20	17	23	26	27	24
Wheat, 2nd sort	30	34	22													
Rice, 1st sort	15	20	13	10	10	10	10	8	10	10	11	11	15	17	..	..
Rice, 2nd sort	26	33	21	11	11	1	10	11	11	10	12	13	20	25	37	20
Pulse, *tuver*	24	20	19	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	..	..	..	..	16	24

Source :

Campbell J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. II, *Surat and Broach*, (1877), pp. 207-208.

"The statement may be roughly divided into five periods. The first from 1824 to 1842, a time of high prices; the second from 1843 to 1854, years of falling prices; the third from 1855 to 1860, a time of reaction; the fourth from 1861 to 1866, a time of high prices, due chiefly to the American War; and the fifth from 1867 to 1876, a period of reaction."[1]

The data show that foodstuffs were cheaper when mechanised transport like the railways, motor vehicles, etc., were not introduced and the effects of consequent world-wide commercial fluctuations were not felt quickly in these far-flung areas. The distance to which agricultural produce could go, was conditioned by the nature of the transport and the roads available at the time. The cultivator could not get remunerative prices for his produce and all his wants were met mainly through barter. Towards the close of the 19th century, when mechanisation was introduced, the economic conditions underwent enormous changes. Lack of price-data is a severe handicap in ascertaining the exact or probable price situation. In the circumstances, it is not possible to discuss the price trends with any exactitude prevailing upto 1946. The Administration Report for the Dangs for the period from 1st August, 1944 to 31st March, 1946 provides some price data. It mentions prices of *nagli*, which is the chief food of the Dangis. Two *champas* could be had for one rupee or one Bengali maund for Rs. 8.

This clearly shows an upward trend in prices, after the Second World War and even further rise after Independence is witnessed as proved by subsequent events. After Independence, far-reaching administrative, social and economic reforms were introduced in the country. Planning for economic growth was introduced for the first time in the country. These measures had profound influence on the price structure, because it increased employment opportunities and purchasing power of the people. In the post-Independence period, the price rise is continuous as can be seen from the scanty data available for a few years for a few articles.

(RUPEES FOR MAUND OF 82.87 LBS.)

Commodity	1955-56	1956-57	1957-58	1958-59
Paddy	15.00	..	16.96	16.96
Ragi	10 00	..	13.03	13.03
Wheat	18.00	18.75	..	..
Groundnut	14.00	..	..	..

Source :
Ministry of Food and Agriculture and Economics, Government of India.

1. CAMPBELL J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. II, *Surat and Broach*, (1877), p. 207.

This upward trend in prices is further accentuated from 1960 onwards except for two years, 1963 and 1965, as can be seen from the following table :

STATEMENT IX.4

Statement showing the Prices of Important Foodgrains prevailing in the Dangs District

(IN RS. AND PAISE FOR 20 KGS.)

Year	Rice	Wheat	Jowar	Bajri	Math	Udid	Gram
1960 ..	37.00	30.00	19.00	..	..	..	18.00
1961 ..	37.60	25.80	18.80	21.20	..	..	25.80
1962 ..	35.20	28.00	24.00	22.00	..	..	25.80
1963 ..	32.40	28.00	20.00	20.00	..	..	24.80
1964 ..	38.40	40.00	36.00	..	..	..	40.00
1965 ..	17.40	24.00	19.50	17.50	25.00	25.00	24.00
1966 ..	35.00	23.50	17.50	19.20	20.00	25.00	23.00
1967 ..	..	25.00	25.00	23.00	27.00	30.00	40.00
1968 ..	42.00	26.00	18.00	18.00	32.00	25.00	20.00
1969 ..	42.00	26.00	20.00	18.00	32.00	30.00	26.00
1970 ..	28 to 42	22 to 25	17 to 23	20.00	25.00	25.00	25.00

Source :
Mamlatdar, Dangs, Ahwa.

The Socio-Economic Survey of the Dangs district carried out from 1948 to 1968 by the Bureau of Economics and Statistics reveals that the average income from fields at current prices per cultivating household has nearly doubled in two decades (1948-68), i. e., from Rs. 230 in 1947-48 to Rs. 462 in 1967-68. Although the price rise in farm products was sharper in the sixties which noticed gradual reduction in the average size of holdings, incomes per household have not increased correspondingly.

WAGES

Wages generally signify all remuneration capable of being expressed in terms of monetary value and paid to a person for the work skilled or unskilled done by him. The level of wages paid to different categories of workers throw considerable light on the economy of a region and the living conditions of its people. Fluctuations in prices generally influence the level of wages paid from time to time. The livelihood of the Dangis being

mainly based on the forest economy and subsistence agriculture, wages exhibit a tendency of remaining low, and this is a normal feature of the rural economy dominated by barter. Except the work in forests, the Dangis have no permanent avenue of employment and thus wages earned by them are uncertain. In busy seasons of farm and forest operations, labourers in this district are in great demand. But during the rest of the year, they are either underemployed or unemployed.

In the early days, the mode of payment of wages, especially in the agricultural sector, was governed and determined by customs and traditions, the labourers used to be paid mostly in kind and rarely in cash. Skilled workers, however, were generally paid wages in cash and were, therefore, on a higher level in comparison to those who received wages mostly in the form of grains. But the lack of data for the early fifties of the 19th century generally makes the task of arriving at some plausible conclusions difficult. However, in the Administration Report for the Dangs available for the period from 1st August, 1944 to 31st March, 1946, the position of rates of wages is described as under :

> "Many of the Dangis are employed by forest contractors, both for carting and for actual cutting, though for the latter outside labour is usually preferred. The Dangis also work for the Forest Department on carting and on road work, the current wage paid by the contractors was Re. 0-12-0 per day, and that paid by the Forest Department was Re. 0-7-0 per day. Shortly after the end of the period under the report, the Forest Department raised its rate of wages from Re. 0-7-0 per day to Re. 0-8-0 per day. A further substantial increase combined with compulsory small savings is under contemplation."[1]

Thus, it appears that the Dangis got employment in forest operations from the contractors and the Forest Department and that the former (contractors) paid better wages than the latter (the Forest Department).

For want of information about wage rates prevailing in the period upto 1957, it is not possible to indicate the trend of wages. However, the Socio-Economic Survey[2] of the Dangs district conducted by the Bureau of Economics and Statistics for the period from 1948 to 1968, reveals that the charges paid for hired labour in relation to the man-days utilised for cultivation have increased more than two-fold from 85 paise in 1947-48 to Rs. 1·93 in 1967-68, the increase was 92 per cent in the first decade, and 18 per cent in the second.

1 *Administration Report for the Dangs* from 1st August 1944 to 31st March, 1946 Ch. IV, p. 12, para 43.

2. Bureau of Economics and Statistics, Government of Gujarat.

The daily wages paid to both skilled and unskilled workers in the Dangs district for different categories of workers from March, 1957 to May, 1968 for certain selected months were as follows :

STATEMENT IX·5

Average Daily Wages of Workers for Certain Selected Months in Dangs District

(AHWA)

(FIGURES IN RUPEES AND PAISE)

Sl. No.	Type of labour	March 1957	Nov. 1957	Jan. 1958	Dec. 1960	Jan. 1961	July 1961	Jan. 1962
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	**Skilled Labour**							
	(a) Carpenters	4.50	..	..	I	..	..	..
	(b) Blacksmiths	4.50	..	..	..	2.50	..	2.50
	(c) Cobblers	1.00	..	..	..	..	..	..
2	**Field Labour**							
	(a) Men	1.25	1.00	1.00	N	..	1.12	1.12
	(b) Women	1.00	1.00	1.00	..	..	1.12	1.12
	(c) Children	0.75	1.00	1.00	..	..	1.12	1.12
3	**Other Agricultural Labour**							
	(a) Men	0.94	..	..	R	1.12	..	..
	(b) Women	0.94	..	..	..	1.12	..	..
	(c) Children	0.94	..	..	..	1.12	..	..
4	**Herdsmen**							
	(a) Men	0.75	0.75	0.75	..	0.75	0.75	0.75
	(b) Women	0.75	0.75	0.75	..	0.75	0.75	0.75
	(c) Children	0.75	0.75	0.75	..	0.75	0.75	0.75

Type of labour	June 1962	Jan. 1963	Nov. 1963	Mar. 1964	July 1964	Nov. 1964	June 1965	Jan. 1966	July 1966	Jan. 1967	June 1967	Dec. 1967	May 1968
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
1 (a) Carpenters	..	2.50	3.00	3.00	5.00	..	3.50	3.50	5.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	7.00
1 (b) Blacksmiths	2.50	2.50	3.00	3.00	3.50	3.00	3.25	3.25	4.00	7.00	7.00	8.00	8.00
1 (c) Cobblers	..	2.50	2.75	2.75	4.00	2.75	3.50	3.50	3.50	8.00	8.00	7.00	8.00
2 (a) Men	1.12	..	1.50	1.50	1.50	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2.00
2 (b) Women	1.12	..	1.25	1.50	1.25	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1.75
2 (c) Children	1.12	..	1.00	1.50	0.75	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1.50
3 (a) Men	..	1.50	..	1.50	1.25	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	2.00	..
3 (b) Women	..	1.25	..	1.25	1.00	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.75	..
3 (c) Children	..	1.00	..	1.00	.	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.50	..
4 (a) Men	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
4 (b) Women	..	..	..	..	..	.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
4 (c) Children	..	..	..	.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

Source :

Government of Gujarat, *Labour Gazette*.

I. N. R. = Information not received and not available.

The statement discloses that the wages paid to the skilled labour have decreased from November, 1957 and remained constant upto January, 1963, thereafter an upward trend is noticed. During the years from 1957 to 1967, the wages have doubled. In the case of unskilled labour, there was no change in the wages for a fairly long period until rise in prices became acute and persistent and justified an upward revision in wages. In respcet of non-farm workers, wages paid in cash appear to be higher than those paid in kind to farm workers. This clearly indicates that the wages in kind were not correlated to the rise in prices.

In the absence of adequate statistical data, it is difficult to deduce price variations in wages in respect of skilled and unskilled labour in the district. From the available data, however, it will be seen that there is wide difference between maximum and minimum rates of wages in respect of both farm and non-farm work. Whereas the maximum wage rate received in agricultural work is Rs. 1·75, the minimum wage in non-farm work is Rs. 7, which is approximately four times higher compared to the former. The extent of under-employment is clearly discernible from the type of wage structure prevailing in the Dangs. The average rate of wages received and the unbelievable minimum to which wages can go down clearly show that a large percentage of the rural population depending on labour for subsistence is obliged to remain under-employed or unemployed and, therefore, under-nourished. In recent years, however, this position is expected to change on account of implementation of various laws and rules calculated to improve the standard of living of the Dangi workers. The workers have to work eight hours normally. The wage level has shown a rising trend reflecting a rise in the prices of commodities and the effects of inflationary pressure generated by developmental activities in the district which have generally tended to affect the rates of wages considerably. Thus, it could be surmised with reservation (because full data are not available) that the increase in the wage rates has improved the economic condition of the Dangis as compared to the past.

STANDARD OF LIVING

The income and the pattern of the expenditure over a period of time determine the standard of living of any class of people in a society. A study of the family budgets of different income groups, therefore, is necessary to understand their standard of living. With this purpose, a family budget survey of some selected Dangi families in different strata of society was undertaken in the Dangs in April, 1970.[1]

While evaluating the results of this survey, a few practical limitations inherent in the economy of the Dangs territory have to be borne in mind.

1. Besides this survey conducted by our office, we have also freely drawn upon the results obtained during the Socio-Economic Survey of the Dangs conducted by the Dangs Development Council, in 1969.

The Dangs district is entirely rural and its economy is forest-based. The basic assumptions of economic life like competition and mobility of the factors of production are not found in the tribal economy of the district to the extent as they are found in other areas of the State. The district is extremely backward, as it has no industry, no trade, no banking institutions, no net-work of railways or *pucca* roads, no sea-ports and air-ports. Moreover, though the Dangs district boasts of the highest percentage of agricultural population in the State, the Dangis are not progressive and efficient farmers. Their agriculture also suffers from natural handicaps like poor soils, absence of sub-soil water, etc. Whatever they produce is not enough to maintain them for the whole year. There are neither check-dams nor water-reservoirs available for irrigation. Their food habits are dependent on the food material available in the district. Besides depending on cereals like *nagli* and *vari* and roots and tubers, the Dangis relish non-vegetarian delicacies of birds, rabbits, etc.

The Dangis are traditionally accustomed to drink. They consider it a privilege to drink liquor and to offer it to their guests. Many of them take it as a tonic, a medicine or an appetizer. However, for obvious reasons they do not reveal the actual expenditure incurred on liquor. The Dangis are gradually veering round to tea.

The entire district is populated by Adivasis mainly Kunbis, Bhils, Varlis and Mavchis, who are ignorant, illiterate and improvident. As a result, they have not been able to take full advantage of the developmental activities under the Five Year Plans. The Bhils are believed to be the original inhabitants of this region from time immemorial and were the ruling class, while the Kunbis and others were their ryots and cultivators. Yet they are the poorest among all the tribes. Even the Bhil Rajas, who had in the past an assured income from the forest rights and *halpatti* from cultivated lands, are economically poorer because of their imprudent habits, while the Kunbis and Varlis who are hard workers are comparatively better off. "The co-existence of a politically dominant but materially backward ruling tribe and a subject, but economically progressive peasantry is thus an unusual variant of the relations between aboriginals and Hindu peasant populations."[1]

Most of the Bhils were reported to be in debt. As Mr. D. Symington so rightly put it : "The Bhil is a poor cultivator, given over to drink, hopelessly improvident and consequently chronically victimized by money-lenders. At the harvest time, the *sowkar* .... comes and takes the whole of the money-crops away ...... If his debt is large or his *sowkar* particularly grasping, his food crops go as well .... The Bhils then have to begin to beg or borrow immediately after the harvest ...... The Bhil *khatedar* never

1. C. Von Furer-Haimendrof in his foreword to Dr. T. B. Naik's book on *The Bhils-A Study*, (Delhi), 1956.

sells his crop, but hands it over bodily in part payment of an inextinguishable debt; consequently, he makes not a pie of profit; and that even after possession of a good holding .... he still lives in a bamboo hut, has insufficient food and clothing, and has to borrow for every petty need."[1]

The Adivasis are away from the main stream of life and thus live a segregated life. Their wants are few and limited. Their income is small and uncertain. They do not bother to maintain accounts of their income and expenditure, and, therefore, do not know the amounts they spend on different goods and services. Most of their wants are dictated by custom and kept up by tradition. As will be seen from the following paragraphs, the expenditure pattern of one Dangi in particular group, therefore, does not vary much from that of the other, the only difference being due to the size of the family.

For the family budget survey conducted by this office, five representative villages in different parts of the district were selected in consultation with the district authorities. Families were divided into two main groups-agriculturists and non-agriculturists.

AGRICULTURISTS

As in other districts of Gujarat, cultivation of land is the main source of livelihood for most of the people in the Dangs. In fact, according to the 1961 Census, the percentage of working population engaged in cultivation is the highest in this district as compared to other districts of the State. A sample study of the Socio-Economic Survey of the Dangs district conducted by the Dangs Development Council in 1969 revealed that 77 per cent of the total households surveyed depended on cultivation, while 18 per cent depended on labour for their livelihood. For the purpose of survey, agriculturists were considered under three different categories, according to the size of their cultivated area namely, (1) small cultivators, (2) medium cultivators and (3) large cultivators. The non-agriculturists comprised village artisans, retail traders and salaried people like school teachers, Government employees, etc. The forest and agricultural labourers formed a class by themselves.

Small Cultivators

The class of small cultivators (cultivating 1 to 5 acres each) which constitutes the lowest rung of the agriculturists account for about 27 per cent of the total cultivators holding 6 per cent of the total cultivated area in the district. The average land holding of the families in this group comes

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1. D. SYMINGTON's *Report on the Aboriginal and Hill Tribes of the Partially Excluded Areas in the Bombay Presidency*, (Bombay), 1950, pp. 6-7.

to less than 3 acres per family. None of the cultivators in this group had irrigation facilities. They, therefore, could cultivate only kharif crops such as *nagli*, *vari*, etc., which constitute their staple food.

The average size of a family in this group consisted of 6 ; 2 of them were earners, of whom one was generally a female. Their annual income averaged to about Rs. 1,037 which was mostly derived from farming, supplemented by wages earned from forest labour. Their average annual expenditure worked out to Rs. 1,230. Every family had a deficit budget. Obviously, therefore, most of the families in this group had to incur small debts to wipe off recurring deficits. Only a few of them incurred debts for productive purposes.

The most important item of their expenditure was food accounting for 60 per cent of their budgets. Nearly half of this was spent on *nagli*, an important coarse grain commonly used by the Dangis in their meals Next to it was clothing which accounted for about 14 per cent. The other important items of expenditure were tea, tobacco and intoxicants (5 per cent), religious and other ceremonies (3 per cent) and travel (3 per cent). Many of the families surveyed in this group reported that they hardly consumed milk or *ghee*. Though tea was a regular and important item of their daily expenditure, most of the families could not report the exact amount spent by them on it. Fuel and lighting cost almost next to nothing as most of them used firewood brought from forest bushes, etc. Similarly, roots and tubers which supplement food intake particularly in times of famine are just to be dug up from the forest areas. However, in all such cases there is an element of labour and time involved in collecting and bringing the fuel, roots, tubers, etc.

They lived in small huts, which were set up mostly with bamboos. Their cattle wealth consisted of a cow or a pair of bullocks. None of them possessed ornaments. Their modicum of assets consisted of a small farm, primitive farm equipment and miscellaneous domestic articles.

Medium Cultivators

The medium cultivators (holding 6 to 25 acres) form the largest group of cultivators constituting about 61 per cent of the total cultivators. They cultivate between them 61 per cent of the total cultivated area. Their average land holdings worked out to 12½ acres per family. In terms of money, the average annual income of the families surveyed in this group was Rs. 2,048 per family. The main source of their income was from agriculture supplemented by forest labour. They generally owned a pair of bullocks, a cart and other farm implements. The average size of their family was 6, of whom 2 were earners. Family members including children helped to carry out various agricultural operations.

Only a few families were found to be saving ; 50 per cent of the families surveyed were in debt, which was incurred both for productive and unproductive purposes. The expenditure pattern of this group did not show large variations from that of the preceding group except that while the percentage of their expenditure on tea, etc., and clothing was little less, that on religious and social obligations, travel, lighting, etc., was a little more as compared to the previous group. As regards their assets, almost all the families surveyed owned from 2 to 5 animals consisting of bullocks, buffaloes and cows. They lived in their own small *kutcha* houses.

Large Cultivators

The top stratum of the village community constitutes the large cultivators (holding over 25 acres) who form a small proportion, 11 per cent, of the total cultivators, but hold between them a significant proportion, nearly 33 per cent, of the total cultivated area. Their average land holding came to 37 acres per family. The economic condition of this group was obviously good. The average number of members of the families was 10—the largest among all groups, and of them 3 were reported to be earning members. The families in this class on an average earned nearly Rs. 4,300 a year. Each family possessed 10 to 15 animals, including two pairs of bullocks, cows, buffaloes, etc. More than two-thirds of the families surveyed were able to save regularly either in cash or in precious metals and ornaments. Lavish expenditure on several social and religious occasions considerably cut into their accumulated savings.

Most of their requirements for cereals and pulses were met from their own farm produce, which in money terms accounted for nearly 55 per cent of their expenditure. Their average annual expenditure on clothing was found to be about 11 per cent and that on religious and social ceremonies about 6 per cent of their total expenditure. Tea and tobacco, accounted for nearly 4 per cent. Expenditure on fuel and lighting was not much, as they used cow-dung cakes, stumps and other fuel available from the farm or forest. Medicine and travel taken together formed nealy 8 per cent of their expenditure. Their better standard of living was evident from their *pucca* built houses, as also the precious ornaments possessed by them.

NON-AGRICULTURAL CLASS

This group included forest labourers, village artisans, small traders and salaried people living in the village. Of them, forest labourers merit a special mention because both cultivator and labour households appeared to participate in nearly equal proportions in this important subsidiary activity of the district. Distribution of relative shares of income from different sources other than cultivation showed that forest labour accounted for nearly 37 per cent of such income for cultivators and nearly

20 per cent in case of labour households.[1] The standard of living of forest labourers was poor. However, as they had more earning members, they could manage within their small earnings. In case of village artisans like *suthar* (carpenter), *mochi* (cobbler), *darji* (tailor), etc., exact idea of the pattern of their expenditure could not be ascertained as many of them received part payment for their services in kind, i. e., in the form of foodgrains from the farmers at the time of harvest. The economic condition of the salaried people, which included school teachers, village level functionaries, etc., was far from satisfactory. Their earnings were not enough and many of them had deficit budgets.

In the tribal economy of the Dangs, traders represent a distinct class because they are generally non-Dangis. They often act as a seller, a buyer and a money-lender, all rolled into one. They sell consumer goods to the Dangis, buy their farm produce and lend them occasionally not only money but also grains, etc. The backward economy of the Dangs has been largely responsible for this typical and unique combination of functions. These traders accommodate cultivators by providing money for agricultural and other purposes and realise the amount at the time of harvest, mostly in kind. They charge high rate of interest. The volume of their business varies largely according to the size of the population of the village and their needs. While a small trader had hardly a monthly turnover of Rs. 200, his bigger counterpart in Ahwa who had his clientele mainly consisting of Government servants posted at the headquarters did a brisk business. Traders lived a simple life without spending much on comforts and joys of life. As a result, they mostly had balanced and surplus budgets.

General Remarks—The analysis of the survey brings out a broad and representative picture of the levels of living of the people in the Dangs. The striking feature of the survey is the poor living conditions of the Dangis and at the same time not so highly uneven distribution in levels of income of the people as well as in the pattern of their expenditure. While the highest per capita income among families surveyed was reported to be Rs. 850, the lowest was Rs. 180. Similarly, the highest per capita expenditure was reported to be about Rs. 700 and the lowest in the neighbourhood of Rs. 200.

On the whole, the major portion of the expenditure of the Dangis was on food which accounted for nearly 55 to 65 per cent. Food was followed by clothing which, on an average accounted for 12 per cent of the total expenditure. Considering the scant clothing they put on, this percentage is found to be a little high. But it is so perhaps due to the high prices obtaining for this item in the secluded forest tract of the Dangs.

1. Socio-Economic Survey of Dangs District, conducted by the Dangs Development Council, Ahwa, (1969).

Religious and other ceremonies and fuel and lighting, each accounted for about 4 per cent. While firewood is naturally the most common fuel, kerosene is already in use among better placed Dangis. Castor oil is also used for lighting purpose in this district.[1] Education formed a very small, negligible percentage of their expenditure. Nor did they spend anything on recreation. Their entertainment at festivals or at any other time consists generally of dances and are, therefore, inexpensive.

As regards assets, the Adivasis were found to have a tendency for possessing tangible assets mostly in form of utensils, houses and cattle and not in the form of securities. Utensils of metals like aluminium, brass, bronze and copper are popular in that order of preference depending on the purchasing capacity of each family. Almost all the families in the Dangs possess their own houses. Livestock was possessed by 77 per cent of the cultivtaing households and 27 per cent of the labour households as indicated by the Socio-Economic Survey conducted by the Dangs Development Council. Silver ornaments were possessed by many cultivating households.

Most of the families surveyed faced financial stringency. Actual indebtedness was reported by 16 per cent of the sample households in 1969.[2] The ways resorted to for meeting deficits included loans from the family members and acquaintances in case of 25 per cent of the families and loans from money-lenders and other sources in case of the remainder. The debt incurred was mostly for unproductive purposes such as medicine, marriage, religious ceremonies, etc.

The tribal economy is primarily based on barter. But with the implementation of the development programmes in the Dangs, the barter economy is giving way gradually to the money economy. The rural economy is gradually getting monetized. The change-over from barter to money as a medium of exchange has resulted in greater simplification of the daily transactions carried out by the Dangis. But this is not an unmixed blessing. Now it is easier for a Dangi to borrow for spending on social and other occasions.

The Dangis, due to their ignorance and improvidence, are not able to take full benefit of the various developmental schemes of the Government. As a result, the district has remained much backward compared to other districts of the State. Its economic backwardness in the whole State was revealed during the Socio-Economic Surveys which were conducted during the 1961 Census. Of all the 25 villages which were surveyed in the State, the village Gadhvi of the Dangs which was the headquarters of the senior-most Raja, had the lowest per capita income of Rs. 91 only.

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1. Socio-Economic Survey of Dangs District, conducted by the Dangs Development Council, Ahwa, (1969).
2. *Ibid*.

It has to be noted, however, that standards of living of the Dangis have improved appreciably after the introduction of the Five Year Plans. The impact of the Community Development Programme is found heartening. The changes are apparent in their dress, ornaments, houses as well as in their living conditions, increased literacy percentage, agricultural production, etc. The number of primary schools in the district has increased from 6 in 1948-49 to 296 in 1968-69 with a corresponding increase in the number of pupils from 284 to 12,135. The percentage of the illiterate has gone down from 94 to 81 during the period. The average gross income per household has more than doubled and has increased from Rs. 321 in 1947-48 to Rs. 701 in 1967-68.[1] The purchasing power of an average household has also similarly increased. The Dangis who had no settled habitations now live in their own houses. The agriculturists have generally given up shifting cultivation. They now use better implements, improved seeds and chemical fertilizers. They have started cultivating cash crops and vegetables. The number of carts in use in the district was only 1,744 in 1951 which has since increased to 3,503 in 1966. Net area cultivated has steadily increased from a mere 37,500 acres in 1950-51 to 120,000 acres in 1967-68.[2] Its average yield per acre has also appreciably increased over the last two decades. The Dangis now lead a settled life, live in their own houses, use better utensils and put on better clothes. A significant proportion of households also possesses gold and silver ornaments.

Thus, the tribal economy and the forest economy are inseparably linked up with the development of the Dangis. Even after 20 years of planning, the economy of the Dangis continues to be based upon agriculture and forest labour. Although the tools and techniques of agriculture have improved under the Five Year Plans, there has not been proportionate increase in the return from agriculture. This is because very limited land is available for cultivation and that too in protected forests only. Agricultural production in the Dangs is mainly for consumption. Even with 100" rainfall the irrigation facilities are practically non-existent. This comes in the way of raising rabi crops. Forest labour provides employment to the Dangis for a part of the year. But it is all unskilled labour. No forest-based industries have developed in the absence of a basic infra-structure of development such as water, power, communications, etc. There are no minerals which could be worked to provide employment to the Dangis. Thus, in the context of restricted utilisation of limited land and unskilled forest labour, the economy of the Dangis has not improved, to the extent desired. The impact of the Five Year Plans is, however, felt in education and health. This has brought about tribal development, which may in the course of time merge them in the main-stream of the society. Unless their purchasing power is increased it will be difficult for the Dangis to compete with other sections of the society and meet the challenges of life.

1. Socio-Economic Survey of Dangs District, conducted by the Dangs Development Council, Ahwa, (1969).

2. *Ibid.*

GENERAL LEVEL OF EMPLOYMENT

Utilization of human resources as determined by its working force engaged in different economic activities and their distribution into different sectors of economy is helpful in assessing the progress made in the various sectors. The following statement gives the percentage distribution of working force in different sectors between 1951 and 1961 as disclosed by the last two Censuses.

STATEMENT IX-6

Percentage Distribution of Working Force by Sectors between 1951 and 1961

Primary Sector

Total		As Cultivator		As agricultural labourers		In mining, quarrying livestock, forestry, fishing, hunting and plantations, orchards and allied activities	
1951	1961	1951	1961	1951	1961	1951	1961
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
78.06	92.28	66.14	66.62	5.09	21.77	6.23	3.89

Secondary Sector

Total		At household industry and in manufacturing other than household industry		In construction	
1951	1961	1951	1961	1951	1961
9	10	11	12	13	14
7.51	2.03	7.11	1.22	0.40	0.81

Tertiary Sector

Total		In trade and commerce		In transport, storage and communications		In other services	
1951	1961	1951	1961	1951	1961	1951	1961
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
14.43	5.69	0.95	1.01	0.17	0.52	13.31	4.16

Source :

Census of India 1961, Vol. V, Gujarat. Part I-A(iii), *General Report on the Census, Economic Trends and Projections*. (1965), pp. 12-13.

The largest percentage of working force has continued to be employed in the primary sector, i. e., agriculture. The percentage of total workers engaged in this sector increased from 78·06 to 92·28 during the decennium, 1951-1961, with a corresponding decline in secondary and the tertiary sectors. Moreover, those engaged as agricultural labourers increased from 5·69 to 21·77. Those employed in mining, quarrying, forestry, fishery, etc., have decreased from 6·23 per cent to 3·89 during the same period.

Workers in the secondary sector comprising manufacturing other than household industry and construction work on the whole decreased from 7·51 to 2·03 per cent, but there is a slight increase in construction work from 0·40 to 0·81 per cent during this period.

The percentage of those engaged in the tertiary sector declined from 11·43 to 5·69 per cent in the intercensal period, 1951-1961. Though workers in "other services" declined sharply from 13·31 to 4·16 per cent, there were marginal changes in trade and commerce, and transport, storage and communications.

The variations in the employment of working population in the different industrial categories are given in the following statement.

STATEMENT IX·7

Variation in Working Population by Industrial Sectors between 1951 and 1961

Sectors	Working population		Increase or decrease	Percentage increase or decrease	Gujarat State percentage increase or decrease
	1951	1961	1951-61	1951-61	1951-61
1	2	3	4	5	6
All Sectors ..	**21,050**	**39,161**	**+18,111**	**+86.04**	**+28.91**
Primary Sector	*16,431*	*36,140*	*+19,709*	*+119.95*	*+33.13*
As cultivator	13,922	26,091	+12,169	+87.41	+53.09
As agricultural labourers ..	1,198	8,527	+7,329	+611.77	+2.17
In mining, quarrying, livestock, forestry, fishing, hunting and plantations, orchards and allied activities	1,311	1,522	+211	+16.09	—55.62
Secondary Sector ..	*1,580*	*794*	*—786*	*—49.75*	*+63.07*
At household industry and in manufacturing other than household industry	1,496	478	—1,018	—68.05	+61.87
In construction	84	316	+232	+276.19	+79.21
Tertiary Sector	*3,039*	*2,227*	*—812*	*—26.72*	*—1.30*
In trade and commerce ..	201	396	+195	+97.01	+0.49
In transport, storage and communications ..	36	202	+166	+461.00	+59.30
In other services ..	2,802	1,629	—1,173	—41.86	—8.59

Source :

Census of India 1961, Vol. V, Gujarat, Part I-A (iii), *General Report on the Census, Economic Trends and Projections*, (1965), pp. 10 11.

The total working force increased by 86·04 per cent between 1951 and 1961, as against 28·91 per cent in the State as a whole due to migration from outside, reduction in the death-rate and comparatively higher birth-rate.

In the primary sector, the increase in the working force was to the extent of 119·95 per cent, as compared to 33·13 per cent in the State. In the secondary sector, there was a decline of 49·75 per cent as against 63·07 per cent increase in the State, showing inter-regional imbalance in development in the State. Decline of 26·72 per cent in the tertiary sector as against 1·30 per cent in the State was also noteworthy.

In the Dangs district, the ownership of land vests in Government, the cultivators are annual lessees of Government.[1] Working force in the primary sector increased to 119·95 per cent, while in the secondary sector the workers engaged in manufacturing industries declined by 68·05 per cent. But on account of expansion in the construction activities, workers in this sector rose by 276·19 per cent due to implementation of the development programmes under the Five Year Plans.

The large decline in the number of workers in other services was due to the fact that greater opportunities of gainful employment were available in other occupations.

EMPLOYMENT STATUS

For a proper assessment of the employment status of workers in the different sectors, it will be convenient to study them under categories of those engaged in agricultural as well as non-agricultural pursuits. Among those engaged in agriculture, the most important status is that of self-employed persons, who work with the help of family labour. Those engaged in non-agricultural pursuits may be classified into employers, employees, single workers and family workers and those engaged in household industry into employees and others. Of the 4,107 persons at work in non-household industry in the district (i. e., in trade, business, profession or service), 2·43 per cent were returned as employers, 53·69 per cent employees, 37·35 per cent single workers and 6·53 per cent family workers.

EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGE

The State Directorate of Employment has its subordinate offices of employment exchanges in the districts with a view to determining the type of personnel in short supply, find out the employment opportunities likely to arise and assess man-power requirements of professional, scientific, skilled and technical workers. The Sub-Regional Employment Exchange, Surat, served as an employment exchange office for the Dangs till August, 1960. The District Employment Exchange, Ahwa, came into existence with effect from September, 1960. With the passing of "The Employment Exchange (Compulsory Notification of Vacancies) Rules, 1960, the establishments in the public as well as private sectors employing 25 or more persons are

1. Recently, occupancy rights are conferred on these lessees.

required to notify their vacancies to the employment exchange under the Employment Exchange Compulsory Notification of Vacancies Act, 1959. In the initial stages of its functioning, the Employment Exchange was looked after by the Mamlatdar, Ahwa. A full-time Employment Officer was appointed from January, 1964.

The functions of the District Employment Exchange, Ahwa are :

(1) to give employment assistance to those employment seekers, who approach the Employment Exchange, for help and guidance,

(2) to cater to the needs of employers by providing right type of personnel,

(3) to give vocational guidance and provide information about various courses and help employment seekers and students in the choice of their career, and

(4) to collect and disseminate information about the vacancies available in different fields.

To sum up, the scope of employment in organised sectors of the economy is very limited in this district. There is not a single medium or large-sized industrial or other establishment in the district. Its economy is entirely rural and forest-based. The ratio of workers to non-workers is 55:45. A majority of working population, i. e., 88·39 per cent is dependent upon agriculture.

The following statement gives the Employment Exchnage statistics of the district for the period 1961 to 1969.

STATEMENT IX·8

Employment Exchange Statistics, 1961-69

Year	Number of registration	Number placed in employment	No. on live-register at the end of each period	No. of employers using exchange	No. of vacancies notified
1	2	3	4	5	6
1961 ..	771	176	213	52	209
1962 ..	842	115	354	51	171
1963 ..	731	66	348	35	110
1964 ..	984	178	442	61	226
1965 ..	748	87	456	52	152
1966 ..	523	82	316	53	133
1967 ..	657	105	343	36	151
1968 ..	522	31	352	31	57
1969 ..	684	75	447	53	208

Source :
Director of Employment, Gujarat State, Ahmedabad.

It will be seen from the figures that from 1961 to 1964 the Employment Exchange registered a sizeable number of applicants in search of jobs. The number of applicants approaching Employment Exchange for employment assistance and those remaining on the live-register were also high during this period. After the formation of the Gujarat State, Government machinery at the district level rapidly expanded the new employment opportunities. The applicants from the neighbouring districts were also attracted to new avenues of employment in the Dangs, with the result that more applicants were registered at the Employment Exchange. There were no wide variations except for the year 1969, when registrations as well as number of applicants on live-register again increased. Trained teachers from the neighbouring districts also got their names enrolled in large numbers.

National Planning

Planning is necessary to achieve a balanced growth of different sectors of the economy of a region as also in raising the standard of living of the people. It brings about socio-economic advancement of the people by formulating definite schemes, fixing up of targets of progress in various sectors of the economy and in directing efforts to achieve them within a stipulated period of time. In this country, the planning era commenced with launching of the First Five Year Plan in 1951 which aimed at raising the living standards of the people by developing agriculture, industries and other sectors, thus opening new avenues of gainful employment and ensuring a richer and fuller life to the people. With this end in view, a comprehensive programme of planned economic development has been initiated in India after Independence. The State and district plans are formulated keeping in view the concept of Welfare State and implemented through the district administrative machinery. For each item of development, a target is fixed and the estimates of expenditure are worked out to achieve the social and economic goals. The following statement gives the sectoral expenditure incurred in the Dangs district during the Three Plan periods.

STATEMENT

Expenditure under different 'Heads' during the Three Five

Sl. No.	Name of the Head	Ist Plan Expen-diture in Rs.	Ist Plan Percen-tage of total expen-diture	IInd Plan Expen-diture in Rs.	IInd Plan Percen-tage of total expen-diture
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Agricultural Programme ..	0.03	0.05	1.42	1.13
2	Community Development and Panchayats	..	..	12.30	9.74
3	Co-operation	17.99	29.35	8.86	7.02
4	Irrigation	..	..	..	..
5	Animal Husbandry	0.32	0.52	0.22	0.17
6	Forests	..	..	15.11	11.97
7	Cottage Industries	1.87	3.05	2.24	1.78
8	Roads and Buildings	26.12	42.61	38.36	30.39
9	Education	9.94	16.21	22.38	17.73
10	Health	4.84	7.90	11.77	9.32
11	Welfare of Backward Classes ..	0.19	0.31	2.15	1.70
12	Local Bodies	..	..	11.42	9.05
13	Industries and Mining	..	..	..	..
14	Miscellaneous (Statistics), Publicity & others	..	..	..	..
15	Land Development	..	..	..	..
16	Soil Conservation	..	—	..	..
	Total	**61.30**	**100**	**126.23**	**100**

Source :

For 1st, 2nd and 3rd Five Year Plans *Pragatina Panthe*, Dangs District.

For the years 1936 to 1969, the Collector and Chairman of District Development Board, Dangs.

IX-9

Year Plans and from 1st April, 1966 to 31st March, 1969

(EXPENDITURE IN LAKH OF RS.)

IIIrd Plan		Total expenditure during three plans in Rs.	Percentage of total expenditure of three plans	Expenditure from 1st April, 1966 to 31st March, 1969	
Expenditure in Rs.	Percentage of total expenditure			Expenditure in Rs.	Percentage
7	8	9	10	11	12
3.40	3.06	4.85	1.68	0.06	0.13
2.01	1.81	14.31	4.94	0.21	0.44
..	..	26.85	9.27	1.27	2.71
0.18	0.16	0.18	0.06	..	..
1.72	1.55	2.26	0.78	2.17	4.62
15.06	13.57	30.17	10.42	13.87	29.53
8.23	7.42	12.34	4.26	1.09	2.32
55.37	49.88	119.85	41.40	15.68	33.38
4.55	4.10	36.87	9.63	1.03	2.19
8.35	7.52	24.90	8.62	8.41	17.91
3.10	2.79	5.44	1.88	1.19	2.54
..	..	11.42	3.94	..	..
0.08	0.07	0.08	0.03	0.09	0.19
0.10	0.09	0.10	0.03	0.02	0.04
7.12	6.33	7.02	2.43	1.18	2.51
1.83	1.65	1.83	0.63	0.70	1.49
111.00	**100**	**298.53**	**100**	**46.97**	**100**

Over and above the expenditure incurred for the development in the Dangs under the Five Year Plans, the State Government spent Rs. 903·63 lakhs on research, training, survey, etc., in different sectors such as agriculture, development of land, animal husbandry, dairy development, co-operation, forests, fisheries, irrigation, communications, industries and mining, social services, etc., during the Second Five Year Plan. During the course of the Third Five Year Plan, Rs. 18·62 lakhs were spent in the district under the centrally sponsored schemes such as survey and classification of agricultural and forest labour societies and co-operative societies, forest labour and labour contract societies for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

During the Three Five Year Plans and the subsequent three Annual Plans, the district has witnessed considerable development. Under the First Five Year Plan, the total expenditure incurred was of the order of Rs. 61·30 lakhs. Heavy expenditure was incurred on co-operation (29·35 per cent), roads and buildings (42·61 per cent), education (16·21 per cent) and health (7·90 per cent). Thus in the First Plan, the objective was to prepare an infra-structure of development by construction of the roads, provision of education, health and co-operative institutions.

During the Second Five Year Plan, the total expenditure incurred was twice the amount spent in the First Five Year Plan (Rs. 126·23 lakhs). Large expenditure was incurred on forests (11·97 per cent), roads and buildings (30·39 per cent), education (17·73 per cent), and local bodies (9·05 per cent). Thus the emphasis on roads construction, health and education was continued in the Second Plan.

During the Third Five Year Plan, however, the total expenditure declined to Rs. 111 lakhs. The highest expenditure was incurred on roads and buildings (49·88 per cent) and forests (13·57 per cent).

Out of a total of Rs. 298·53 lakhs spent during Three Plan periods, the First Plan accounted for Rs. 61·30 lakhs, the Second Plan Rs. 126·23 lakhs and the Third Rs. 111·00 lakhs. In the years from 1967 to 1969, an expenditure of Rs. 46·97 lakhs has been incurred.

Considering the total outlay in the Three Plans, expenditure on roads and buildings was the highest. Improvement of roads and increase in the communication facilities were prime necessity for the development of this backward region. Roads in the *ghat* areas were narrow and made transport difficult and hazardous. The total outlay on road development amounted to 41·40 per cent in the Three Plans and 33·38 per cent in the subsequent years. The next important programme was development and protection of forests because the entire district is covered with forests. Till 1969, the total expenditure amounted to Rs. 44·04 lakhs under the Plans for developing the forests. The following activities have been undertaken for protection

of forests and increasing their potential: (1) installation of Walkie-Talkie wireless sets, (2) land improvement, anti-erosion and water conservation works, (3) soil conservation demonstration centre, (4) special teak plantation, (5) establishment of wet nurseries, (6) planning of agave hedges, (7) restarting of Waghai Saw Mills, (8) communication and buildings, (9) intensification of demonstrations of methods of lac cultivation, and (10) cultivation of medicinal plants.

Development of educational facilities in the Dangs also received attention of the Government. In the peculiar circumstances prevailing in the district, Government have themselves taken the responsibility for promoting primary education in the district and for the purpose of administration, have set up a Board for Primary Education. A total of Rs. 27·87 lakhs or 9·63 per cent of the entire outlay in the Three Plans and Rs. 1·03 lakhs or 2·19 per cent of expenditure in the subsequent years have been spent. An important feature of the educational programme in the district is that education both at primary and secondary levels is being imparted free to all eligible backward class pupils. A free mid-day meal is another feature in the schools in this region. In addition, under the general schemes for welfare of backward classes, a number of scholarships are given to the backward class students in the schools so as to induce them to attend schools. The college going students from the district are also assisted by grant of scholarships, tuition fees and examination fees.

The importance of co-operative societies needs no emphasis and there is hardly any field where co-operative effort has not yielded rich dividends. The co-operative movement in the Dangs is of very recent origin. The grain lending society established at Ahwa in 1908 was the first co-operative effort in the Dangs. The first multipurpose co-operative society was registered in 1949 and the movement gradually gained momentum. At the end of Third Plan period, there were 51 co-operative societies of which 28 were multipurpose societies of various types. Nearly 9·27 per cent of the total outlay in the Three Plans and 2·71 per cent of expenditure in the subsequent Annual Plans have been incurred till 1969.

Health programme occupies a very important place in socio-economic development. Dangis had some sort of phoebia towards allopathic treatment which gradually vanished on account of concerted efforts after Independence. In recent years, medical facilities in the district have been considerably expanded. An amount of Rs. 24·96 lakhs or 8·62 per cent of the total expenditure in Three Plans and Rs. 8·41 lakhs or 17·91 per cent in the Annual Plans have been spent to eradicate epidemics like malaria, leprosy, smallpox and dysentery, which were dreadful diseases in the Dangs. The facilities available at the Central Hospital, Ahwa and other dispensaries were strengthened. Community Development and Panchayats, Cottage Industries, Local Bodies, Land Development, Welfare of Backward Classes,

Agricultural Programme, Animal Husbandry, Soil Conservation, Irrigation, Industries and Mining, etc., also received attention of the Government and sizeable amounts have been spent for their development as shown in the above statement.

The First Five Year Plan was more or less in the nature of preparing the ground-work for various development activities in the district. The Second and the Third Plans were quite ambitious both in their outlook and contents. The Third Plan aimed at increasing the tempo of development generated in the previous two Plans, Systematic efforts for the removal of various handicaps from which the district suffered were made by undertaking planned programmes on road construction, education, health and forest development. Their implementation has resulted in several changes in the socio-economic conditions of the people.

Community Development Programme

The Community Development Programme is a unique and bold effort to mobilise public enthusiasm and co-operation and to raise the standard of living of the people. It is altogether a scientific endeavour for an integrated approach to the problems of rural development based on public participation and working through representative institutions of the people.

This programme was first inaugurated in the district in October, 1954. At first, three types of development blocks known as National Extension Service, Community Development and Post-Intensive blocks were conceived. They marked three different phases of development of rural areas. The National Extension Service was a preparatory period when the area was prepared for receiving a heavy dose of development during the next stage of Community Development. The assumption was that thereafter it would be developed and the people sufficiently would be awakened to keep up the tempo of progress already achieved. The programme since then underwent various organisational changes as a result of the recommendations of the Balwantray Mehta Committee appointed by the Planning Commission in 1957 to examine the working of the Community Development Programme and related matters and to recommend measures for improving its quality and content. In pursuance of its recommendations, the distinction between the N. E. S. stage, intensive development stage, and the post-intensive stage was abolished from 1st April, 1958 and all the blocks under all-India programme except blocks in the community development stage, which had then not completed 3 years, were classified into stage I and stage II blocks, with the revised financial pattern and the periods of operation. The Community Development blocks on completing stage I period would enter stage II. A stage I block has a five-year period of operation with a ceiling of expenditure of Rs. 12 lakhs. It is the intensive development phase in which the people's participation is to be promoted as a means of

community development by a closer association of Gram Panchayats with the formulation of plans for their respective areas. The degree of success attained during the first stage will be evidenced by the growth and functioning of self-reliant rural communities which is the basic objective of the programme. After completing stage I, the blocks will enter stage II and then post-stage II of the programme.

On 31st March, 1969, there were two Adivasi Development Blocks, of which one was in stage I and the second was in stage II. Detailed particulars of the starting of National Extension Service Block, Community Development Block, Adivasi Development Blocks in villages, population covered, expenditure incurred, people's contribution, upto 31st March, 1969 are given in the following statement.

STATEMENT IX.10

Community Development Programme, Dangs District, upto 31st March, 1969

Sl. No.	Name of the block	No. of villages covered	Population covered	Date of starting the block	Total expenditure incurred in Rs.	Total contribution by the people in Rs.	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	National Extension Service Block ..	310	47,282	2-10-1954	97.528	11,011	National Extension Service Block was started from 2nd October, 1954 and completed on 30th April, 1956. The Community Development Block was started from 1st May, 1956 and continued in stage upto 31st March, 1961. From 1st April, 1961 to 31st March 1963, it was continued in stage II. Meanwhile, i. e., from 1st January, 1962 in 161 villages, Adivasi Development Block was started and continued in stage I upto 31st December, 1968. From 1st January, 1969 the stage I block was converted into stage II and from 1st April, 1963 Adivasi Development Block No. 2 was started and was in stage I, the period of which was extended upto 31st March, 1970.
2	Community Development Block ..	310	47,282	1-5-1956	1,051,271	79,053	
3	Community Development Stage II ..	312	71,567	1.4-1961	..	..	
4	Tribal Development Block, Dang I, Stage II	161	36,805	1-1-1962	1,430,611	44,077	
5	Tribal Development Block, Dang I, Stage II	161	36,805	1-1-1969	..	..	
6	Tribal Development, Dang 2, Stage I ..	151	34,762	1-4-1963	930,812	31,326	
	Total				3,510,222	165,467	

Source :
Project Officer, Adivasi Development Block, Ahwa, Dangs.

Within a decade (1954-64), the entire district has been covered by the Community Development Programme, which includes activities like agriculture, animal husbandry, irrigation, land reclamation and improvement, health and rural sanitation, education, communications, rural arts and crafts, etc. The total expenditure incurred on these schemes upto 31st March, 1969, was Rs. 3,510,222, people's contribution being Rs. 1,65,467. These figures together with the details about physical achievements upto 31st March, 1969 given in Statement IX·11 illustrate the fact that the Community Development Programme has definitely created among the people consciousness about the needs and aspirations for their betterment.

STATEMENT IX.11

Physical Achievements of the Adivasi Development Blocks 1 and 2 (since their inception) upto the end of March, 1969

Sl. No.	Name of the Item	Unit	Achievement
1	*Agriculture*		
	(a) Distribution of improved seeds	Quintals	1,388
	(b) Distribution of chemical fertilisers ..	,,	1,112
	(c) Compost pits dug	Number	1,394
	(d) Fruit trees planted	,,	25,014
2	*Irrigation and Reclamation*		
	(a) Area contour bunded during 1959-69 ..	Acres	9,553
3	*Animal Husbandry*		
	(a) Pedigree bulls supplied	Number	54
	(b) Pedigree birds supplied	,,	458
	(c) Cattle inoculated	,,	29,814
4	*Health and Sanitation*		
	(a) Water Wells Constructed . ..	Number	69
5	*Education*		
	(a) School buildings constructed	Number	40
	(b) Adults made literate	,,	1,332
6	*Communication*		
	(a) Roads constructed	Miles	19
7	*Rural Arts and Crafts*		
	(a) Persons Trained in Training-*cum*-Production Centres	Number	176
	(b) Women clubs started	,,	19
	(c) Youth clubs started	,,	53

Source :

Project Officer Adivasi Development Block, Ahwa, Dangs.

TRENDS OF DEVELOPMENT

Economic progress of a region depends on the availability of the infrastructure consisting of natural resources and opportunities for their exploitation, financial, political and administrative stability, technical know-how and social structure.

The British administration, generally speaking, did not initiate any scheme for improvement of the economy of the Dangs, but remained content with the exploitation of forests for timber required for the naval yards at Bombay and maintenance of law and order. The Bhil Chiefs were ignorant, illiterate and backward and were, therefore, themselves unable to initiate any developmental activities in their areas. Before merger, no works of development which might bring about economic development and raise the living standards of the Dangis were undertaken. The railway facilities were meagre and only those roads which were required for the transportation of timber were developed. Facilities for medical treatment were practically negligible. It was considered unhygenic to reside in the Dangs, which was affected by malignant malaria and other diseases. The economic activity was conditioned by the exploitation of forests. Shifting cultivation was practised. Cultivation was allowed in the protected forests only and was carried on partly by slash and burn method. There was no regular system of survey and settlement of land revenue but land revenue was recovered on the plough-tax system.

After its merger into the Bombay State in 1947 and the formation of the Gujarat State in 1960, comprehensive measures for the economic development of the Dangs district have been undertaken having regard to the peculiar geographic position, the Adivasi population and backwardness of the region.

From 1st April, 1963, the Panchayati Raj was introduced in all the districts of Gujarat State except the Dangs district.[1] But the district is placed directly under the State Government for accelerating the pace of development. The State Government has also constituted from 1962 the Dangs Development Council under the chairmanship of the Chief Minister for the effective implementation of various development schemes in the Dangs. Till recently, there was one Prant-*cum*-Resident Deputy Collector in charge of the district administration, but now a full-time Collector has been appointed with effect from May, 1970 and special powers are delegated to him for integrated development of the Dangs. Further, the Dangs District Local Board and District Development Board have been constituted respectively for the local self-Government works and general development works. A separate Housing Board is also constituted in the Dangs for providing good houses to the Dangis (*vide* details given in Chapter XIII—Other Departments).

When the Dangs was administered by the Government of India, it created a special fund, called the 'Dangs Reserve Fund', out of the surplus revenue from the forest produce after paying the lease-amounts to the Dangs Chiefs and other administrative expenses. At the time of merger,

1. Measures are recently initiated to introduce the Panchayati Raj at the village level in the first instance.

this amount was made over to the former Government of Bombay, which came to be transferred to the Government of Gujarat after the formation of the State. The fund has now aggregated to Rs. 6·00 crores. The Government has laid down that no works of development should suffer from the paucity of funds and that if budgetary provision is not available for any particular scheme, the amount may be drawn from the Reserve Fund.

A separate budget head "33-A Dangs" for the district has been created by the State Government so that development works may be carried out properly and progress of expenditure watched.

All these measures of reforms have been introduced in order to raise the living standards under the Community Development Programme and the Five Year Plans.

Consistent propaganda and demonstration about improved methods of cultivation have helped augment agricultural production with the financial and technical assistance made available by the Government. These measures have helped in the improvement in the general economic condition of the Dangis. The following table shows the physical achievements made in the Dangs, since the formation of the Gujarat State.

STATEMENT IX·12

Achievements made in the Dangs, since the formation of the Gujarat State

Sl. No.	Name of the Sector	Unit	1960	1969
1	2	3	4	5
1	Primary schools ..	.. Number	161	296
2	Pupils in primary schools	.. Do.	4,898	12,135
3	Expenditure on education	.. Rs.	5 Lakhs	17 Lakhs
4	Middle schools ..	.. Number	1	2
5	Students in middle schools	.. Do.	120	334
6	Ashramshalas ..	.. Do.	2	8
7	Adivasi development blocks	.. Do.	Nil	2
8	Hospitals .	.. Do.	1	1
9	Dispensaries ..	.. Do.	3	(1) Mobile Unit (2) Maternity Home and Child Welfare Centre (3) Primary Health Centre—1 Sub-Centres—3 Family Planning Centres—2
10	Drinking water wells	.. Do.	110	289
11	Hill station	. ..	.	Saputara
12	Big dam	.. ..	..	Saputara
13	Electricity	.. Number	2	Eight main Centres
14	Roads	. Kms.	398.40	981.42 (all categories P. W. D., D. L. B. Forest)

Measures have been undertaken to develop other sectors of development. The co-operative movement has been organized. The co-operative societies disburse loans, improved seeds, fertilisers, pesticides, equipment, etc. Decimal system both in the currency and the weights and measures has been introduced. Educational facilities are being strengthened. With a view to attracting students, the schemes of free mid-day meal, slates, text-books, a pair of clothes and liberal scholarships have been provided in the district. A number of social welfare measures have been initiated to help Dangis share the socio-economic advancement along with the rest of the country. Liberal facilities and special concessions are being offered by the Government for the establishment of new industries. In order to expand the industrial base, the State Government proposes to set up rural industries project in each district of Gujarat. The Dangs has been selected as one of the six districts for preparing feasibility reports for setting up rural industries and industrial estates. Under this programme, at the instance of the Gujarat Industrial Development Corporation, the Small Scale Industries Service Institute (a Government of India Undertaking) has prepared a detailed report on the industrial potentialities of the district. The Institute has suggested that there are good prospects for development of small-scale, agro-based, cottage and forest-based industries in the district (for greater details see Chapter V—Industries, of this Gazetteer).

PART V—PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

CHAPTER X

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

INTRODUCTORY

The Dangs territory is an undulating country of hills and dales covered with the dense forests, unhealthy and unsafe for residence except for its natural inhabitants, Bhils and other tribes. So far as the public administration is concerned, the Dangs district stands as a class by itself. It had neither the paraphernalia of the modern administrative machinery nor the trained personnel to man the administration. This was because the territory consisted of the entire tribal population and generally inaccessible hilly and forest areas. The Dangs were small States with Chiefs as the rulers, who were illiterate, ignorant and poor. They were generally alien to the art of administration. Administration of the Dangs district, therefore, passed through several stages of evolution detailed below :

(1) *Loose Administration during the pre-1818 Period*

The territory known as the Dangs consisted of a group of 14 small States, approximately, 660 sq. miles or 1709·40 sq. kms. in area, the extreme length being 52 miles or 83·69 kms. and breadth 28 miles or 45·06 kms. Each State was known as a Dang and was under a Bhil Chief.

For the period prior to 1818, information is not available about the administration of the Dangs territory. This fact has already mentioned before in the Chapter II on "History". Whatever data are collected are from scattered sources in various books and reports about the Dangs.

The history of the British relations with the Dangs began in 1818 with the occupation of Khandesh by the British. At that time anarchy was rampant and raids frequent, the inhabitants of the plains obtaining security only by payment of blackmail. The British sent an expedition into the Dangs which suffered severely from fever and retreated. Subsequently the administrative control over the Dangs was obtained not primarily by force but by the outstanding personality of Sir James Outram. who suppressed the Chiefs by raising a Bhil Corps in Khandesh.

At that time, there were 15 Dangs as under —(1) Amala ; (2) Avchar ; (3) Chinchli ; (4) Derbhavti ; (5) Dudhe ; (6) Gadhvi ; (7) Jhari Gharkhadi ; (8) Kekat Kadupada ; (9) Kirli ; (10) Palasvihir ; (11) Pimplaidevi ; (12) Pimpri ; (13) Shivbara ; (14) Vadhiavan and (15) Wasurna.

Among these, the Gadhvi Chief was the principal Raja. The Chiefs of Gadhvi, Derbhavti, Amala and Wasurna claimed the title of Raja and the rest were called Naiks. Even after the grant of the political pensions in 1954, they continue to be called by the old titles of Rajas and Naiks. These States were ruled by separate Chiefs, who were independent of each other except in warfare when, with a following of armed men, all were bound to follow the Gadhvi flag. Like other tribal societies, these Chiefs derived their power and position from traditional customs and values. The Bhil Rajas of Dangs with their ferocity and the strength of the forest fastnesses preserved their independence during the rule of the native Governments. The native Governments considered them as out-castes from the society and any mode was considered justifiable to exterminate them.

(2) *Military Administration (1818-1843)*

Administration as we understand had its beginning since 1818, when British acquired Khandesh including the Dangs area. Upto 1842, British authorities excercised little or no interference in the internal affairs of the Dangs. Earliest measure which could be termed as administrative interference was the establishment of the military posts along the Western Frontiers of Khandesh to curb and subdue the predatory habits of the Bhils. Occasionally, expeditions of the Bhil Corps were undertaken in the Dangs more for suppression of the turbulent Bhil Chiefs than for establishing administration in the Dangs.

(3) *Forest-oriented Administration (1843-1943)*

Their ferocious character, natural strength and unhealthiness of the region and their fastnesses enabled the Bhil Chiefs to preserve their rude independence. In order to obtain the best timber for the naval yard at Bombay and thereby secure political control over the Dangs, the British acquired the forest leases from the Dangs Chiefs in 1842, which were renewed in 1862 on a perpetual basis. After the lease of forests in 1842, the area went largely on its own except for forestry under the loose control of the Collector of Khandesh who exercised the powers of a Political Agent.

The territory derived its chief value from its extensive teak forests. The increasing importance of the forest area led the British Government in 1852 to vest the Bhil Agent in Khandesh with political authority over its petty chiefs in subordination to the Magistrate of the province. This authority was then exercised by an Officer of the Forest Department, as being the nearest British Officer on the spot. The interposition of the Government had, however, been hitherto limited to the punishment of flagitious cases of crime and oppression.[1]

1. *Annual Report on the Administration of the Bombay Presidency* for the year 1861-62, pp. 39-40.

The Superintendent of Police in Khandesh,[1] Major Probyn under the Collector and Political Agent, Khandesh managed the Dangs State. The Chiefs were poor and indebted and there was no public revenue for execution of the most ordinary work. The connection between the paramount British authority and the Bhil Chieftains was almost entirely confined to the repression of any violent disturbance of the public peace.

There was no regular Police force, except that some of the subordinate leaders were bound to attend their Chief with a following of bowmen.[2] There was no organised military force but every Bhil was called upon to carry arms in emergency.

As a matter of fact, the Dangs Chiefs were politically ineffective in the district. They were all Adivasis and on account of their backwardness in education, jurisdictional powers were for many years exercised on their behalf by the British. The Chiefs, however, retained certain revenue rights over their territories and certain customary rights of settling tribal disputes.[3] As the leases related to the Dangs, which was treated as a foreign territory, no question could be raised concerning them in the British courts and there was no tribunal to which Rajas or the public could appeal but the British Government in India. It appeared that by acquiescence of the Rajas, the British acquired in the Dangs the power and the right of administering or superintending the administration of justice. In excercise of this power, the British Government could no doubt make it punishable within any demarcated portion of the forest cultivation or cutting of any tree beyond certain prescribed limits. The peculiar political position of the Government in fact enabled it to do much that private persons in the same legal position could not possibly attempt.[4]

Another important factor which enabled the British to interfere in the internal administration of the Dangs Chiefs was the illiteracy, poverty and ignorance of the Chiefs, who were totally alien to administration. The British took advantage of this lacuna and spread their jurisdiction over the entire Dangs area presumably under the pretext of protecting their forest interests. Internal interference by the British met with vehement opposition from the Chiefs In 1879, the Dangs forests were classified into reserved and protected forests and cultivation was prohibited in the reserved forests. As such classification of the forests was considered a thin end of the wedge to deprive them of their forest rights, the Chiefs indulged in wanton destruction of forests and started cutting down trees and cultivating more and more virgin lands. This was clearly a violation of the

1. *Annual Report on the Administration of the Bombay Presidency* for the year 1874-75.
2. *General Report on the Administration of the Bombay Presidency* for the years 1876-77 and 1882-83.
3. *Annual Administration Report for Dangs* for the years 1944-46.
4. MR. J. R. NAYLOR, Remembrancer of Legal Affairs' opinion of 1878 quoted in Annexure VI, Chapter II—History, p. 149.

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agreement. To put an end to such destruction of forests, the Bombay Government carefully reviewed the whole future of the Dangs in 1902 and transferred its political control from Khandesh to Surat with effect from January 1, 1903.[1] The Collector of Surat was appointed a Political Agent. A new post of the Divisional Forest Officer, Surat was created. He was to act as Assistant Political Agent, Dangs and was invested with the powers of a First Class Magistrate so that he could try civil suits above the limits of Rs. 50. The Dangs Diwan, who was to work under him, was invested with the powers of a Second Class Magistrate and was empowered to try civil suits upto Rs. 50. The reason of making him responsible for the welfare of the forest and the people of Dangs was to bring the entire Dangs territory under complete control of the British. As a result, cultivation was restricted to the protected forests, the number of forest fires decreased and the forest began to fill up again. Mr. E. M. Hodgson was the first Divisional Forest Officer to be appointed as Assistant Political Agent, Dangs. He introduced a code of administrative standing orders, organized the police and brought the general administration to an efficient level. Lastly, by conciliation and tact, he obtained consent of the people to the final revision of the forest settlement, whereby an area of 113·81 sq. miles or 295·26 sq. kms. was added to the reserved forest area in the Dangs. Thus, from 1903 to 1933, the Dangs territory was administered by the Government of Bombay through the Collector of Surat as Political Agent and the Divisional Forest Officer, Dangs as *ex-officio* Assistant Political Agent.

In April 1933. the political control over the Gujarat States was transferred from the Government of Bombay to the Government of India (then the Crown Representative). As a result the Dangs which was formerly in the Surat Agency was included in the Rewakantha Agency with headquarters at the Baroda Residency because the Secretary to the Resident at Baroda and Gujarat States was also *ex-officio* Political Agent of the Rewakantha Agency. But the administration of the Dangs continued to vest in the hands of the Collector of Surat as Political Agent and the Divisional Forest Officer, Dangs as Assistant Political Agent, Dangs.

Under the Dangs (Application of Laws) Order, 1942 published under the Political Department Notification No. 471-I-B, dated 8th December, 1942, the principal Acts of the Central Legislature, Acts of the Bombay Province and other enactments and rules as required in the Dangs were made applicable.[2]

(4) *Civil Administration (1943-1947)*

The forest-oriented administration continued till November, 1943 when His Excellency the Crown Representative separated the Civil Departments

1. G.R.R.D. No. 8657, dated 8th December, 1902.
2. *Administration Report for the Dangs* for the years, 1944-46.

other than Forest Department and placed them under the control of the Civil Administrator (in a Deputy Collector's grade) responsible to the Political Agent.

As a result, the Divisional Forest Officer was relieved of all the responsibilities on the administrative side attached to the Assistant Political Agent, so that he might concentrate all his energies on the increasing and complicated problems of the forest management. Thereafter, the administration of the Dangs was vested in the Civil Administrator, who was placed in charge of all departments except Police, Forest and Public Works, which remained under the direct control of the Political Agent, who was himself subordinate to the Resident at Baroda and for the States of Western India and Gujarat.

In consequence of the Attachment Scheme, with effect from November 5, 1944 the political charges in Kathiawar and Gujarat were reorganised and the Dangs State was placed under the Political Agent, Gujarat States Agency with headquarters at Bulsar.

(5) *Popular Administration with Development Orientation from 1947 onwards*

In 1947, the Political Department of the Central Government transferred the administration of the Dangs to the Dangs Advisory Council. Under Section 4 of the Extra Provincial Jurisdiction Act, 1947 (Act XLVII of 1947), a provision was made for exercising certain Extra Provincial Jurisdiction of the Central Government. The Central Government was empowered to assign certain area to the adjoining provinces. Under the Government of India's Notification No. 127-P, dated the 19th January, 1948, the Bombay (Enlargement of the Area and Alteration of Boundaries) Order 1947 was published. Under article 2 (b) of the Order, the Dangs area was included in the territories of the Dominion of India. Under article 3 of the said Order, the area of Dangs formed part of the Bombay Province and under article 5 of the said Order, it (the Dangs) was formed into a separate district of the Bombay Province. The said article also empowered the Governor to extend to the area the application of any laws. Consequently, under Government Revenue Department's Notification No. 6775/45 (a), dated the 10th July, 1948, all enactments, notifications, rules and bye-laws under such enactments, which were in force in the province of Bombay were extended and ordered to be in force in the District of Dangs. Under Government Revenue Department's Notification No. 6775/45 (f), dated the 10th July, 1948, the Provincial Government made an order that the Administrator shall be deemed to have been appointed for the district with effect from 19th January, 1948 and that the said officer shall be subject to the general supervision and control of the Provincial Government and shall have charge of executive administration of the district Subsequently, the

names of the villages to be included in the district were notified[1] and post of a separate Collector and other administrative staff were sanctioned under this Resolution. Accordingly, the whole Dangs district was ordered to consist of one taluka only, namely, the Dangs taluka with headquarters at Ahwa. The post of the Dangs Diwan was abolished and that of a Mamlatdar was created.

The Government further ordered that the district of Dangs should be administered in the same way as any other districts of the Bombay Province and that all Heads of Departments should exercise the same powers and jurisdiction in the Dangs, as they did in other districts. The Collector was required to co-ordinate the activities of the various departments in the district.[2]

In 1950, three villages, namely, Harpada, Thorpada and Khokharvihir originally formed part of the former Baroda State, but after merger, were included in the Surat district. On formation of the Dangs district, those villages were included in the Dangs district.[3] The total number of villages in the district was then 313 with 25 sejas and 4 circles.

After deciding the question of rights and privileges of the Chiefs and Naiks in 1954, Government authorised the Collector of Dangs to dispose of lands in the district in accordance with the provisions of the Bombay Land Revenue Code, 1879 and the Rules thereunder and the orders issued in the matter from time to time.[4]

In 1957, as a measure of economy, the post of the Chitnis to the Collector was combined with that of the Mamlatdar and the staff in the Collector and Mamlatdar Offices' was suitably retrenched.

When the separate State of Gujarat was formed in 1960, the district was included in the Gujarat State. Immediately after bifurcation of the Surat district into Surat and Bulsar with effect from 1st June, 1964, the separate post of the Collector of Dangs was abolished and the Dangs district was placed under the jurisdiction of the Collector of Bulsar, who was also designated as Collector of Dangs. A post of Resident Deputy Collector at Ahwa was created. This arrangement continued till April, 1970.

With a view to accelerating the develpoment of the Dangs district in an integrated manner, a separate post of the Collector of the Dangs district has been created with effect from May 1, 1970. As Collector, he is empowered

1. Government Resolution, Revenue Department, No. 6775/45, dated 10th July, 1948.

2. Government Resolution, Revenue Department, No. P. 435, dated 3rd March, 1949.

3. Government Notification No. 6342/49, dated 7th October, 1950.

4. G. R. R. D. No. LND-1554 / 142701-B, dated 28th February, 1955.

to exercise all the financial powers that have been delegated to other Collectors. Other administrative and executive powers delegated to other Collectors will also be available to him. Powers in relation to the Dangs district which were enjoyed by the Collector of the Bulsar district by virtue of his being the Collector of Dangs will also be exercised by the Collector of the Dangs district. However, having regard to the backwardness of the Dangs, which is mainly populated by the Adivasis, Government considered it necessary to delegate more powers to the Collector of Dangs in order to enable him to promote and effectively implement development programmes in the district. Government has, therefore, directed that additional budgetary and other powers should be delegated to the Collector of Dangs district.[1]

Role of the Collector

In view of the general backwardness of the district, its Adivasi population, major area under the forests, and the plough-tax system, the realization of the land-tax is not a problem. The Collector has, therefore, not much to do with the revenue problems. He is, however, primarily concerned with the socio-economic problems of the Dangs.

The Collector is also the District Magistrate. Under section 17 (I) of the Bombay Police Act (XXII of 1951), the District Superintendent of Police and the police force of the district are under the control of the District Magistrate. The District Superintendent of Police, who is the executive head of the police, exercises general powers subject to the orders of the District Magistrate. Besides being in control of the Police, the Collector as District Magistrate has wide powers under the Criminal Procedure Code, the Bombay Police Act and other Acts for the maintenance of law and order. He is responsible for the prevention of nuisance and other allied matters under the Criminal Procedure Code and for proper administration of jails and sub-jails under the Prisons Act. In his capacity as District Magistrate, he is concerned with the issue of licences and permits under the Arms Acts, the Explosives Act, etc. Under the Factories Act of 1948, the District Magistrate is an Inspector for his district, in which capacity he has powers of inspection and supervision of factories, magazines, etc.

On the 1st November, 1927, a separate Sub-Treasury for the Dangs was established at Ahwa. It was under the overall charge of the Collector to whom the Sub-Treasury Officer was subordinate. He was responsible for all the cash, stamps, etc., received in the treasury as also for the proper maintenance of accounts. From 1st April. 1962, the Sub-Treasury establishment was separated from the revenue administration and placed under the administrative control of the Director of Accounts and Treasuries working under the Finance Department.

1. G. R., G. A. D. No. DGC-1070-J, dated 3rd March, 1970.

Further, the Collector is in charge of various imporant duties connected with civil supplies, small savings, land acquisition, elections to the State Legislature and Lok Sabha, Census, etc. As a District Registrar, he controls the administration and the work of registration of documents within the district, supervises the work of Sub-Registrar at the taluka levels and ensures proper performance of his duties under the Indian Registration Act. Under the Famine Relief Code, 1951, the Collector is required to keep himself at all times informed about the agricultural conditions within the district, organise relief measures and create as far as possible a permanent Famine Relief Fund on a charitable basis for the relief of the needy persons. With a view to accelerating the tempo of development of industries in the district and to achieve more effective co-ordination in providing infra-structure facilities to industries, Government has designated Collector as *ex-officio* Deputy Commissioner of Industries and delegated to him certain functions and powers for the allotment of factory sheds, and open plots in the Government Industrial Estates, formulation of Master Plan for the district and co-ordination of activities of various heads of offices and departments.

ADDITIONAL POWERS TO THE COLLECTOR

Apart from the general powers mentioned above, having regard to the peculiar conditions and the need for rapid development of the tribal people, the Collector of the Dangs district has been delegated additional powers.[1]

(a) The Collector of the Dangs district is designated as the controlling authority for the budget head 33-A. All the budgetary estimates pertaining to the district regarding agricultural activities, forest activities, etc., shall, therefore, be submitted to Government by him consultation with the heads of departments concerned. Similarly, after the budget is passed, funds under the major head may be placed at the disposal of the Collector, who in turn shall get the schemes executed through the departments concerned.

(b) Further, he is entrusted with the implementation of Plan and non-Plan schemes in the district. He gets the schemes implemented by the District Officers of the different departments. The technical supervision over the schemes is exercised by the heads of departments concerned, as is being done in the case of schemes transferred to the Panchayats in other districts.

(c) He is empowered to accord administrative approval for buildings and other civil works upto Rs. 1 lakh, whether the work is of the type design or not. For additions and alterations, the financial limit is upto

1. Government Resolution, No. DGC-1070-J, dated 3rd March, 1970, General Administration Department P(lanning).

Rs. 25,000. In the case of works pertaining to the Dangs district, the Executive Engineer of Navsari is authorised to technically approve the work upto Rs. 1 lakh as in the case of Executive Engineers of Panchayats, which can then be administratively approved by the Collector.

(d) The powers about directions for modifications of bye-laws and administrative instructions under the Gujarat Co-operative Societies Act, which are exercised by the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, are delegated to the Collector, Dangs district in so far as they relate to the societies whose field of activities is confined to the Dangs district only. He is the sanctioning authority for financial assistance, powers of which are at present exercised by the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, and the District Registrars, Co-operative Societies (Industries).

(e) Lastly, he is empowered to accord sanction for purchase of new equipment, if it is required as part of a sanctioned scheme, upto a limit of Rs. 1 lakh in a year subject to the condition that any individual item does not cost more than Rs. 10,000. The prescribed purchase procedure shall be observed.

THE DANGS DIWAN

The administrative history of the Dangs would be incomplete without dealing with the appointment, functions and powers of the Dangs Diwan. The available records suggest that the appointment of the Dangs Diwan dated as far back as 1886 A. D. The Dangs Chiefs were illiterate, indisciplined and drunkards. They were very much indebted and their indebtedness had much to do with the oppression of their ryots. They were incapable of managing their own affairs. The heirs of these Chiefs were brought up in ignorance and general backwardness. It was, therefore, necessary to induce the Chiefs to change their ways of life and to educate their children so that they might take greater interest in their affairs. In these circumstances, the appointment of the Dangs Diwan was made for promoting education, health and social and economic welfare of the Chiefs and their ryots.

After execution of the forest leases in 1842, the Dangs area was placed under the Collector of Khandesh who subsequently worked as Political Agent for the Dangs. Thus the administration of the Dangs was carried on from Khandesh. Since 1903, the entire administration of the Dangs was transferred to the Collector and Political Agent, Surat and the Assistant Political Agent, Dangs (Divisional Forest Officer, Dangs). The Dangs Diwan had to work directly under the Assistant Political Agent, Dangs. He was invested with II class magisterial powers. He had powers to try civil disputes relating to property not exceeding Rs. 50 in value[1].

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1. G. R. R. D. No. 8687, dated 9th December, 1902.

Before 1903, the Dangs Chiefs employed private Diwans. These Diwans generally lived outside the Dangs in Khandesh and Nasik and paid occasional visits to the Dangs, when they transacted business with the Dangs Diwan and did any work which the Chiefs required of them. They also carried on the money-lending business and recovered extortionate rates of interest from the Chiefs and their ryots. Their semi-official position gave them great power over the people. They were responsible for much mischief in the Dangs. A proposal was, therefore, made in 1907 for an appointment of one Assistant Diwan in place of 5 private Diwans employed by the Chiefs. The proposal was initially not accepted because it was feared that the Chiefs might object to the appointment of a person by Government. It was also thought that it might be taken as a punishment on the Chiefs for the Bhil out-break at Ahwa in 1907. Later on, however, it was considered expedient to appoint one Assistant Diwan under the Dangs Diwan. As a result, in 1909 Government sanctioned the posts of one Assistant Diwan, one clerk and one peon for looking after the welfare of the Chiefs and their ryots. The Chiefs accepted the appointment of the Assistant Diwan, as they felt he would do their work better for nothing than the private Diwans did on payment. They were also convinced later on that the collections of assessment by the Diwan and Assistant Diwan were also larger than those by the private Diwans. In 1909, the Dangs Diwan and his staff were graded with the subordinate Revenue staff of the Surat district. The first Assistant Diwan was one Someshwar Bhatt, who worked till June, 1911, when he was succeeded by Jamnadas Kevaldas Mehta.

Information about the persons who worked as the Dangs Diwan before 1903 is not available. In the first decade of this century Shri Nilkanth Mahadev Deshmukh was the Dangs Diwan. He merited displeasure of the Government in connection with the Ahwa riot of 1907. After inquiry, he was reinstated in 1910. It was, however, found that educational progress in the Dangs was retarded due to his "secretly obstructive attitude". He seemed to have resented the intrusion of the Christian Mission into the Dangs and was found jealous of its influence in the Dangs. He was suspended in 1911 on charges of corruption and misconduct. Although these charges were not proved against Deshmukh, it was considered inadvisable to allow him to return to the Dangs. During his suspension, the post of the Dangs Diwan was held firstly by Mr. David Gershon of the Excise Department and then by Shri V. G. Kulkarni of the Forest Department. On 4th May, 1913 Shri Jamnadas K. Mehta, who was working as Assistant Diwan since 1911, was promoted as Dangs Diwan.

Of all the Dangs Diwan, the name of Shri J. K. Mehta stands out as the most efficient administrator both from the point of comprehensive welfare work done by him and the long period of his service in the Dangs. He joined the Revenue subordinate service in 1897 and was made Assistant Diwan in Dangs in 1911. As Assistant Diwan till 1913 he had set up a

good record of service and as recorded in the Annual Administration Report of the year 1913, his presence in the Dangs was considered a safe guarantee for honest and progressive administration. Shri Mehta made a very efficient Diwan and his human sympathy and interest in the people combined with his energy, sturdy physique, sound common sense and tact made a very favourable impression both on the Government, the Chiefs and the ryots. He had the welfare of the Dangis at heart and had identified himself with the well-being of the people. Moreover, his knowledge of the Dangs and his tact and patience in dealing with the people helped him in solving most of the difficult problems of the Dangis. He had, therefore, a warm place in the hearts of the Chiefs, Naiks and Dangis. He toured the Dangs in a bullock cart, mixed with the Adivasis, studied their problems deeply and set out to solve them sympathetically. He brought the indisciplined Chiefs under his complete control and induced them to educate their children. He taught people to improve their primitive methods of cultivation and tending of cattle and exhorted them to adopt habits of thrift, cleanliness and temperance. He managed the States of the Chiefs during their minority. He also managed the financial affairs of the Chiefs as the latter were improvident. Both as Assistant Diwan between 1911 and 1913 and as Dangs Diwan later upto 1934, he put in much personal effort for moderating drinking habits of people. As a substitute to liquor, he prepared tea and supplied it to several Chiefs in the hope of acquiring a taste for it. Cultivation of improved varieties of crops was encouraged by distributing improved seeds among cultivators. He also induced new settlers from the adjoining area for improving cultivation. As early as 1908, he established a co-operative grain society to provide cheap credit to the Dangis and to free them from the exploitation of grain dealers and money-lenders. Thus he made strenuous efforts to eradicate the main evils of illiteracy, indebtedness and drunkenness. As Dangs Diwan, he had thus to perform multifarious duties. In appreciation of this, he was conferred the title of Rao Saheb in 1918 when he completed six years of service as Dangs Diwan

The salary and the status of the Dangs Diwan were not adequate looking to the onerous multifarious duties he had to perform in the Dangs. It was, therefore, proposed by the Political Agent in 1922 that the Diwan's post should be upgraded to the status of a Mamlatdar and his salary raised proportionately. The Government was convinced that as the Diwan was responsible for law and order in the Dangs, he should be the most highly paid of all the resident officers. He was virtually supposed to be the head of the administration in the Dangs. The Diwan's status was, therefore, raised and his pay-scale was increased to Rs. 220-10-300 by Government Resolution Revenue Department No. 7682, dated 24th April, 1923.

In appreciation of Shri Mehta's long service of 33 years including 19 years continuous service in the Dangs, the title of Rao Bahadur was

conferred upon him in 1930. By then, Shri Mehta had become a part and parcel of the Dangs administration. He had, therefore, become indispensable. The Government was not willing to part with his services. Though he was due to retire in 1931, his services were extended every year upto March, 1934, when he retired after 23 years' continuous and meritorious service in the Dangs. He was succeeded by Shri G. B. Suryavanshi. He was transferred permanently to the Dangs administration with effect from January, 1942 and worked satisfactorily till merger of the Dangs in Bombay in 1948. In the new set-up, the post of the Dangs Diwan was abolished and instead, a post of a Mamlatdar was created.

To sum up, the colourful personality of D. B. J. K. Mehta dominated the Dangs administrative scene for over two decades and was instrumental in establishing a modicum of administration and law and order, promoting cultivation and general welfare of the Dangis in the most hilly, forest-clad and inhospitable territory of the Dangs. The Dangs Diwan remained the political factotum and the ultimate point of reference to Government, the Chiefs and ryots for about half a century till merger.

Collector's Office

The district has only one taluka. A separate post of the Collector was created in July, 1948 and continued till May, 1964. As stated earlier, from 1st June, 1964, on bifurcation of the Surat district into Surat and Bulsar, the Dangs district was placed under the Collector of Bulsar and a new post of the Resident Deputy Collector-*cum*-Prant Officer was created for the Dangs district. The Resident Deputy Collector looked after the routine work and exercised powers of the Collector delegated to him. This arrangement continued till April, 1970. With a view to accelerating the development of the Dangs district in an integrated manner, a separate post of the Collector of Dangs has been created since May, 1970, with additional budgetary and other powers. With the creation of this separate post of the Collector, the post of Resident Deputy Collector-*cum*-Prant Officer is held in abeyance. The Collector is in charge of the general administration, law and order and civil supplies. Under the Collector, there are the Project Officer, the Chitnis, Mahalkari and the ministerial staff.

The main branches in the Collector's office relate to (1) Revenue, (2) Magisterial, (3) Supply, (4) District Development Board and (5) Housing Board.[1] The Collector is also the Chairman of the District Family and Child Welfare Board. The Revenue and Supply Branches are headed by the Chitnis, an officer in the Mamlatdar's cadre, while the magisterial branch is headed by a Mahalkari. The Project Officer, who is of the rank

1. Recently, with the introduction of the Panchayati Raj at the village level, a new section for Panchayats has been set up in the Collector's office under the District Village Panchayat Officer.

of a Deputy Collector, looks after the work of the District Development Board, Housing Board and the District Family and Child Welfare Board.

There is no separate post or office of the Mamlatdar in the district. The Chitnis to the Collector acts as Mamlatdar of the Dangs taluka. He is the head of the revenue administration at the taluka level. After the separation of judiciary from the executive, the Collector and the Mamlatdar do not try criminal cases except in certain proceedings under the Criminal Procedure Code. By virtue of his office, he performs duties of the Superintendent of the Taluka Sub-Jail.

JUDICIARY

The Judicial department is at present headed by the District and Sessions Judge, Bulsar, headquartered at Navsari. He exercises jurisdiction in matters Civil, Criminal and Appellate for the Dangs district. Prior to the advent of the British in the early part of the 19th century, the significant feature of the judicial administration was that its basis was ancient customs and the Rajas investigated all offences and disputes, punishing defaulters by fines and without any regular system of procedure of laws. In 1948, the Dangs area was formed into a district and was placed under a separate Collector. The civil powers were exercised by the Civil Judge, Bulsar, upto 1953 and the criminal powers were exercised till then by the Collector, Dangs, as the District Magistrate. Thus the judiciary was separated from the executive. The judicial set-up of the Dangs district comprises a Civil Judge, Junior Division and Judicial Magistrate, First Class, Bansda, who exercises original civil as well as criminal jurisdiction over the entire district. There is only one Link-Court (Civil-*cum*-Criminal) at Ahwa linked with Bansda and the Civil Judge, Bansda holds his sittings at Ahwa for 4 days from the first Monday of every month and attends to the civil and criminal work of the entire district. (For details, see Chapter XII—Law, Order and Justice).

PROJECT OFFICER

The National Extension Service Block was first introduced in the Dangs on 2nd October, 1954. On 1st May, 1956 it was converted into a Community Development Block Stage-I. The term of the block was to expire on 31st March, 1959, but in view of the special conditions of the district, the period was extended upto 31st March, 1961. With effect from 1st April, 1961 to 31st March, 1963, the block passed into Stage-II Meanwhile, the district was divided into 2 blocks. One of the blocks was converted into a Tribal Development Block-1 with effect from 1st January, 1962, and the other C. D. block continued in Stage-II till 31st March 1963. With effect from

1st April, 1963, this block was also converted into Tribal Development Block No. 2. Thus two Tribal Development Blocks were placed in charge of two Tribal Development Officers. They functioned till 1965. Thereafter, the two posts of T. D. O.'s were abolished and instead, one Project Officer in the Deputy Collector's grade was appointed for the development work for the district.

The Community Development budget is earmarked for development activities like cattle-breeding, improved seed-supply, fertilizers, agricultural implements, pesticides, irrigation, co-operation, construction of wells, roads and houses and social education.

At present, there are six extension officers, seven village level workers and administrative staff working under the Project Officer. The Project Officer is responsible for all development work in the district. He has to co-ordinate the developmental activities of all the departments functioning in the district.

District Level Officers

During the British regime, the Dangs State was administered by the Divisional Forest Officer as Political Agent and the Dangs Diwan as Assistant Political Agent, both having revenue and judicial powers. The Revenue Department which was the basis of the district administration in other districts was not developed because the income from the land revenue was not much and was payable to the Dangs Chiefs. The administration was forest-oriented because the main receipts were from the forest produce. There were medical facilities of a very rudimentary nature. The primary aim of the administration was to establish the closest personal contact with the Dangis in their villages and to avoid formal and bureaucratic methods of civil administration with a large staff of subordinates and to spend the increasing revenues of the area on raising the standard of living of the people. The work of the Public Works Department for construction of roads and buildings was generally undertaken by the Forest Department. In these circumstances, there did not exist various departments and District Level Officers as we find them in the other districts of the State.

After Independence, and the constitution of the Dangs as a separate district, the need for different departments was felt. A beginning was made by appointing a separate Collector to co-ordinate the Governmental activities of all departments in the district. Subsequently after introduction of the Five Year Plan in 1951, and the Community Development Programme in 1952, Government established the development administration which added a new dimension to the existing administrative machinery in the district.

The following is the list of district officers functioning at the district level at present :

1	Collector	Ahwa
2	Project Officer	Ahwa
3	Divisional Forest Officer	Ahwa
4	Additional Divisional Forest Officer	Ahwa
5	Deputy Engineer	Ahwa
6	Civil Surgeon	Ahwa
7	District Health Officer	Ahwa
8	District Agriculture Officer	Ahwa
9	District Information Officer	Ahwa
10	Educational Inspector	Ahwa
11	Administrative Officer, District School Board ...	Ahwa
12	Social Welfare Officer	Ahwa
13	Assistant District Registrar, Co-operative Societies	Ahwa
14	District Animal Husbandry Officer	Ahwa
15	District Inspector of Land Records	Ahwa
16	Sub-Divisional Soil Conservation Officer ...	Ahwa
17	Chairman, Housing Board	Ahwa
18	Superintendent, Remand Home	Ahwa
19	Supervisor, Rural Broadcasting	Ahwa
20	Junior Employment Exchange Officer	Ahwa
21	Headmaster, Government Secondary School ...	Ahwa
22	Depot Manager, State Transport	Ahwa

23	Circle Police Inspector	Ahwa
24	Police Sub-Inspector	Ahwa
25	Assistant Director of Information	Saputara-Girinagar
26	Senior Assistant to the Consulting Surveyor to Government	Saputara-Girinagar
27	Assistant Plant Breeder, Hill Millet Scheme ...	Waghai
28	Technical Assistant, Gujarat Electricity Board, Waghai Sub-Division	Waghai
29	Police Sub-Inspector	Waghai

In addition to the State Offices, there is one Central Government Office located in Ahwa, which is given below :

1 Post Master, Sub-Post Office

It will appear that the administrative machinery has proliferated after Independence.

CHAPTER XI

REVENUE ADMINISTRATION

Revenue Administration During Early Days

We have no definite information about the revenue administration in early days in the Dangs. Whatever little information came to be known was after the British occupation of the adjacent district of Khandesh in 1818. Then, the Rajas and Naiks were supreme and collected land revenue on the *autbandhi* system. This system provided for cultivation of land, not on the basis of a survey number or acre, but on the basis of the area which could be cultivated by one plough with a pair of bullocks. "The revenues of the State were derived from fees on timber, and all produce passing through the country; the land revenue is very small, and received in kind from the population."[1]

Before execution of forest leases in 1842, there seemed no restriction on the area to be cultivated by the Dangis. They had also an unrestricted right of alienation. They could cultivate land anywhere in the Dangs on payment of the *halpatti* of Rs. 6·50. In the forest leases of 1842, the Dangis' right to cultivate land was recognised. It was enjoined that "that Government shall have the right to cut and remove timber in order to prepare land for cultivation and when the land is so prepared, to affix the assessment and make it payable to us," (to the Rajas). But in the revised leases of 1862, two additional conditions were added, which placed restrictions on the Chiefs' right of cultivation and alienation. The Chiefs entered into an agreement with the British that in the forest areas reserved by Government no one would be allowed to enter without the permission of the Forest Officer; that sufficient land would be left outside the reserved forest for cultivation; that the Chiefs would not alienate any *vatan* or *kunti* allowance or any other privilege to an outsider without the sanction of the British Government. Subsequently, the Dangs forests were classified into reserved and protected forests in 1879. These restrictions were incorporated in the leases primarily to safeguard the forest interests of the British. But incidentally, they resulted in abridging the rights of the Dangs Chiefs and Naiks, in regard to cultivation and alienation. As a result, the Dangis' right to cultivate land anywhere in the Dangs territory was abolished and their right to cultivate land was confined to the areas of the protected forest. As stated before, the Dangis did not take this curtailment of their rights lying down; but indulged in wanton destruction of the forest and commenced cultivation of virgin lands by lopping off trees. The British tried to pacify and compensate the Dangs Chiefs by increasing the amount

1. *Selections from the Records of Bombay Government*, No. XXVI, New Series, (1856), p. 166.

of the forest subsidy, but the Chiefs remained unreconciled to the new situation and offered resistance to the British, whenever occasion arose.

To meet the resistance of the Dangis, the Divisional Forest Officer for Dangs was appointed as Assistant Political Agent for Dangs with first class magisterial powers in 1903. He was assisted by the Dangs Diwan who was also invested with second class magisterial powers. From 1903 onwards upto 1943, the Dangs territory was administered by the Forest Department through the Divisional Forest Officer. During this period of 40 years the Divisional Forest Officer and the Dangs Diwan tried to maintain the *status quo* so far as the land administration was concerned. As stated in the *Annual Administration Report for Dangs* for 1944-46, "the basis of land administration in this area is the forest and not the field." Thus, the needs and interests of the Forest Department were paramount and primarily attended to as the revenue was mainly derived from the forests and not from land.

Before the appointment of the Divisional Forest Officer and the Dangs Diwan, land revenue was collected directly by the Chiefs, but after their appointment it was collected through the Divisional Forest Officer and the Dangs Diwan and made payable to the Chiefs on the alleged ground that they (Chiefs) oppressed the cultivators. Thus, the direct link of the Chiefs with the actual cultivators was broken.

Before the British acquired influence and jurisdiction over the Dangs through the forest leases, the Bhil Rajas and Naiks seemed to be owners of the lands comprised therein, as they were the original settlers in the area. As stated earlier, the forest leases did not give to the British any right of ownership over the lands of the Dangs district, but they were given only right to exploit the forest. All lands held by the Rajas and Naiks continued in their possession and they received land revenue from the lands cultivated by others in the territory. Despite this situation on the ground, there is no clear acceptance of the ownership rights as vesting in the Dangs Chiefs and Naiks by the British, predictably for two plausible reasons Firstly, that the Dangs Chiefs and Naiks were illiterate, ignorant and had no experinence of administration. Secondly, it may be that the area was administered as a forest area for several decades by the Divisional Forest Officer. As a result, the British administrators might, therefore, have claimed the lands under the tree growth as vesting in the British Government. Because of their ignorance, the Dangs Chiefs and Naiks might have acquiesced in this position without much overt opposition. Such fluid character of the land ownership in the Dangs continued for a long time. But no attempt was made to define the land rights of the Chiefs and Naiks, having regard to the past history of the Dangs. Although the Dangs were never conquered by the British nor ceded to the British by the Chiefs and the British treated the area as foreign territory and ruled as such, all lands in the Dangs territory came to be treated as vesting in Government and

not in the Chiefs. This happened even though British collected land revenue on behalf of the Dangs Chiefs and paid it to them (the Chiefs).

The system under which land was cultivated came to be known as a *patedari* system. The lessees paid the plough-tax (*halpatti*) of Rs. 6·50 not on the basis of the area cultivated but on the basis of the ploughs used in cultivation. The *halpatti* of Rs. 6·50 was levied on the area tilled by one plough and a pair of bullocks. This tax-rate was halved if cultivation was done by means of one plough and one bullock or if no bullock was used and hand-plough was employed. In the absence of classification and settlement of land revenue in the Dangs, the plough-tax system was found suitable and was continued even after the merger. Even in the co-shared villages of the former Baroda State, the *halpatti* was levied on the lines of other villages in the Dangs.

The Kunbis, the Varlis and cultivators other than Chiefs and Naiks had to pay *halpatti* of Rs. 6·50 per plough. But the Chiefs, Naiks and their Bhaubandhs (relations) cultivated lands without payment of *halpatti*. But they were entitled to the *halpatti* at Rs. 6·50 from cultivators in their villages. The *halpatti* or *autbandhi* collected from the cultivators used to be divided among several Chiefs and Naiks according to the villages held by them and ultimately their Bhaubandhs also got their shares from the amount collected as *halpatti*.

No Chief or Naik was allowed to collect the *pattis* directly from the cultivator. All *pattis* or taxes were collected from April to July by the Dangs Diwan or Aval Karkun and credited into the Government Treasury. The Diwan was the Chief Revenue official in the district. No collection charges were, however, levied by the Government. Thereafter, the amounts of taxes were paid to the Chiefs and Naiks according to their prescribed shares. A copy of the relevant extract from the Dangs Political Standing Orders of the Deputy Political Agent, Dangs is given in Annexure I at the end of the Chapter.

Even after the merger of the Dangs State in 1948, in the absence of survey and settlement, the old practice of levying plough-tax under the *autbandhi* system is continued. For all practical purposes, the plough-tax is equated with the land revenue in other districts of the State. In other districts, in addition to the land revenue, Local Fund Cess and the Education Cess are levied on the amount of land revenue leviable. But they are generally not levied in the Dangs.

In other districts of the State, whenever there is a partial or total failure or destruction of crops throughout any tract on account of draught or any other cause, there is a provision to grant suspension or remission of land revenue on the basis of the anna-valuation according to the prescribed

scale to occupants, agriculturists and non-agriculturists alike. This provision was not available to the cultivators in the Dangs, in the absence of a regular settlement of land revenue and levy of a plough-tax on an *ad hoc* basis. This caused hardships to the Dangi cultivators. Government has, therefore, recently issued orders that suspension and remission of *halpatti* may be given to the Dangis for the year 1969-70, having regard to the scarcity conditions.

Land Reforms

The fundamental fact about the land in the Dangs district is that it is an entirely forest area and that all lands vest in Government. Cultivation is prohibited in the reserved forests. The Dangis are, however, allowed to cultivate lands in the protected forest areas on an *ek sali* basis. No private ownership of lands was granted till 1st January, 1970, with the result that the problem of landlord-tenant relationship had not cropped up. In the two villages viz., Harpada and Thorpada of the former Baroda State which were merged in the Dangs, the tenancy problem did exist. As a result, the Bombay Tenancy and Agricultural Lands Act, 1948 was applied to these two villages. Besides, there were 10 Jagir villages, held by two Jagirdars. Their Jagirs were abolished under the Bombay Merged Territories and Areas (Jagirs Abolition) Act, 1953, with effect from 1st August, 1954.

Apart from these two laws, the need is not felt to extend other Land Tenure Abolition Acts, to the district. Apparently, there is no need to apply the laws relating to the consolidation of holdings and the land ceilings.

The two laws regarding tenancy and Jagirs applicable to the district are dealt with below.

The Bombay Tenancy and Agricultural Lands Act, 1948—The Dangs district comprises in all 311 villages of which only the two *ex*-Baroda State villages, viz., Harpada and Thorpada are surveyed and settled and the private ownership of lands exists. The Bombay Tenancy and Agricultural Lands Act, 1948 is, therefore, applicable to these two villages. Since the work was very limited, no special officer was appointed for the tenancy work as in other districts. But the tenancy cases of these villages were decided by the Mamlatdar of the Dangs district, who acted as Land Tribunal under the Act. The work of implementing the Act was started in 1951. By June 1969, 44 tenancy cases were decided. Appeals had been preferred in 4 cases to the Prant-*cum*-Resident Deputy Collector. The Prant-*cum*-Resident Deputy Collector has returned these 4 cases to the Mamlatdar for re-hearing.

Under the Act, 12 tenants have been conferred occupancy rights in respect of land measuring 92 acres and 2 gunthas on payment of purchase price of Rs. 3,575.

Government has taken a historic decision to grant occupancy rights to the Dangis with effect from 1st January, 1970 in respect of the lands under their cultivation in the protected forests in 309 former Dangs villages. The tenancy problems will now arise and Government will have to extend the provisions of the tenancy law to these villages also.

The Bombay Merged Territories and Areas (Jagirs Abolition) Act, 1953—The Act is applicable to the following 10 villages in the Dangs district, viz., (1) Kanchanpada (2) Kesbandh (3) Biliamba (4) Timbarthawa (5) Jamla (6) Ahirpada (7) Jhari (8) Kamdiawan (9) Garkhadi and (10) Ghanimba. These villages were held by two Jagirdars. The Kanchanpada village was held by Shri D. Y. Pawar, Chief of Surgana (district Nasik) and the other 9 villages by Shri Satischandra *alias* Dattatraya Sadashiva Nisal of Mulher (West Khandesh). Under the Act, the Jagirs were abolished from 1st August, 1954. The Kanchanpada Jagir was decided as non-proprietary by the Collector in 1956 and compensation amounting to Rs. 462-3-9 was awarded. The remaining 9 Jagir villages were decided in 1969 as non-proprietary by the Prant-*cum*-Resident Deputy Collector, Dangs without awarding any compensation. The Jagirdar of these villages has gone to Government in appeal which is pending with Government.

Grant of lands to Chiefs and Naiks—Under Government Memorandum, Revenue Department, (Confidential) No. 6775-B/45, dated 9th July, 1952, as a matter of concession to the Chiefs and Naiks. Government agreed in principle to grant the Chiefs and Naiks of the Dangs sufficient lands on the new and impartible tenure free of occupancy price but subject to payment of land revenue and accordingly Government called for the detailed proposals as to what area should be allotted to each of the Chiefs and Naiks. Finally, Government under their G. M. R. D. No. LND/1653/60370-E, dated 7th July, 1953 approved the proposals for granting lands to the Chiefs and Naiks on new and impartible tenure but free of occupancy price. The following lands have been allotted to the Chiefs and Naiks at that time which still continue in their possession. Plough cess, *halpatti* is being recovered from them as per existing rules in force.

Sl. No.	Name of the Chief / Naik	Total area allotted in A .G.
1	Shri Umarsing Kiralsing, Chief of Gadhvi	196-36
2	Shri Anandrao Sahebrao, Chief of Deher	8-9
3	Shri Gulalsing Kamansing, Chief of Amala	87-1
4	Shri Bhawanrao Bhangarao, Naik of Pimpri	35-15
5	Shri Chandrasing Somansing, Chief of Wasurna	36-10
6	Shri Devsing Wadia, Naik of Kirli	57-00
7	Shri Jiwalia Rangoo, Naik of Shivbara	6-20
8	Shri Fatehsing Nayansing, Naik of Chinchli	26-10
9	Shri Nilsing Yashwant, Naik of Avchar	60-20
10	Shri Gendu Laxya, Naik of Palasvihir	29-20
11	Shri Konjya Withya, Naik of Piplaidevi	27-37
12	Shri Maharu Bhawajia, Naik of Bilbari	9-00
13	Shri Avsu Ganpat, Naik of Zari-Garkhadi	1-00

These lands were granted for maintenance to the Chiefs* and Naiks because they had no movable or immovable property and none of them was educated or well settled in life. More lands were allotted to them, taking into consideration the extent of land in their possession, the practice of rotational fallows, future increase in the number of their family members and increase in their level of living. The lands in question were fallow and the Chiefs and Naiks were allowed to select the lands in their villages. It may be noted that before the grant of these lands in 1953, they did not pay any *halpatti* for the lands under their cultivation. But after the formal grant of the occupancy rights by Government, they have been subjected to payment of *halpatti* for the lands under their cultivation.

The lands of this district are forest lands covered by either protected or reserved forests except two villages of the former Baroda State. No lands at that time were disafforested. Hence Government deferred the question of disafforestation of the lands granted to the Chiefs and Naiks pending completion of the land utilisation survey. Now land utilisation survey has been completed and regular survey operations are also over. At the time of conferment of the occupancy rights to the Adivasis of this district, the question of conferment of occupancy rights to these Chiefs and Naiks will also be decided.

The grant of those lands does not appear to have made any material improvement in habits or condition of the Rajas. In fact, since they cannot now compel their former subjects to render free service in cultivation, and since they themselves do not take sufficient interest in the management of their own property, they do not derive full benefits from the land. Many times they permit, while in a mood, some of their former subjects or friends to cultivate their lands completely free or for a nominal consideration.

As shown earlier, the Rajas and Naiks suffer from many handicaps. They are by and large spendthrift, illiterate, ignorant and addicted to drinking and heavily under debts. They take no interest in management of their own affairs nor are they particular to educate their children. They are always guided by their *karbharis* who are ignorant Adivasis themselves and have no ideas about improving the conditions of their masters. In these circumstances, the Rajas have not made any good use of the 15 per cent *ex gratia* increase in their political pension for the purposes of better housing and education of their children. There are instances where the amounts paid from this fund are squandered away thoughtlessly and consequently without any improvement in their conditions. Because of their ways and because of the direct relationship established long since between the cultivators and the Government, the respect and awe that they commanded among their former subjects have considerably decreased. These handicaps suffered by the Chiefs are all the more amicable in the case of the bigger Chiefs who depend mainly on their political pension for their livelihood.

They borrow money or make purchases on credit against the future instalments of their pensions and are made to pay heavy charges for the same directly or indirectly. They do not even command sufficient credit with merchants on their own and, therefore, approach the Mamlatdar for ensuring payment of debts from the instalment of the political pension. This, the Mamlatdar does unofficially and outside the Government accounts. *But the result is that before the instalment becomes due, it is already* payable to merchants and they are left with only a small portion of the instalment on the day of payment itself.

After the grant of lands on a new and impartible tenure free of occupancy price to the Dangi Chiefs and Naiks, the question arose for granting similar occupancy rights to the Dangis, who were cultivating lands in the protected forests on an annual basis for sometime past. This question of conferring occupancy rights on the Dangis was examined by Government from the point of view of the forest development, the tribal development and the land reforms legislation implemented in the adjacent districts. In February, 1970,[1] Government decided that the lands in the protected forests under cultivation in the Dangs district should be treated to have been released from the forest areas and placed at the disposal of the Revenue Department, for conferring occupancy rights on the Dangis. Such rights should be conferred on the Dangis without charging any occupancy price under the Bombay Land Revenue Code, subject to the following conditions.

1. *Occupancy rights shall be conferred only in respect of those* lands which were held on lease and which were in actual possession of a Dangi on 1st January, 1970.

2. Such occupancy rights shall be conferred only on the Dangis and not on any outsider, who might have obtained leases of certain lands either from the Dangis or from the Forest Department.

3. Such rights shall be on new and impartible (inalienable and impartible) tenure. But such conferment of occupancy rights on new tenure will not prevent the co-operative lending agencies and the nationalised banks from treating these lands as old tenure lands for the purpose of valuation of the lands for loan purposes. Thus the co-operative institutions and the nationalised banks will be free to advance loans to the Dangis on these lands on the old tenure basis.

Since the Dangs district is a forest area, it is further directed that the occupancy rights conferred shall not include any right over non-reserved trees situated on the lands in respect of which occupancy rights have been

1. G. R. A, and C. D. No. FLD-1070/52287-P, dated 6th February 1970 and G. R., R. D., No. LND. 1570/13720-A, dated 13th March, 1970,

conferred. The occupants, however, shall be entitled to lop the trees standing on their lands for the purpose of agricultural operations. If any tree or trees obstruct the operation of cultivation, such tree or trees shall be cut down by the Forest Department at the request of the Dangi occupant.

4. The Government has also ordered that for preparation of the record of rights, arrangement should be made to demarcate the lands in respect of which occupancy rights have been conferred on the Dangis. They should be provided with Khatavahis indicating their title to the lands.

SURVEY AND SETTLEMENT

Before merger of the Dangs into the Bombay State, no survey or land settlement had been carried out on the ground that the plough-tax of Rs. 6·50 was so low that it appeared doubtful whether the cost of such measures would be justified by the income. It was also held that so long as the present economic set-up was continued, no great inconvenience was felt from the absence of a regular survey. Disputes over land were almost unknown or easily settled informally. Even at the time of the merger, the need for a revenue settlement was urgently felt. But it was felt that the land revenue of Rs. 6·50 per plough was paid to the Rajas who were excessively jealous of their land revenue rights. Any hasty attempt to introduce regular land revenue system would lead to much initial misunderstanding and even unrest. Lastly, there was one practical difficulty which was likely to come in the way of a regular survey. It was about the shifting cultivation, which resulted in a fluid possession of fields. In these circumstances, the work of recording the existing physical possession accurately would need the service of a revenue expert. It was, therefore, felt in 1947 that Civil Administrator should content himself for sometime to come with gleaning as much information as he could about the manner in which the internal village administration really worked.

A proposal for the survey and settlement of the district was submitted to the Government. Government accorded sanction to carry out survey operations in the district. The work of survey was carried on between 1951 and 1955. During this period, the survey operations (theodolite, plane-table and classification) were completed in 147 villages. Thereafter, these operations were postponed. They were resumed in the remaining villages in 1960-61 and completed by the end of November, 1969. However, *akarbandhs* and *kayamkhardas* have not been written as at present, plough-tax system is still in vogue. Out of 311 villages of the district, two villages, viz., Harpada and Thorpada have been surveyed and settled, as they previously belonged to former Baroda State. The revenue realised in these villages is more or less on the basis of pattern obtaining in other districts. In rest of the villages, the problem of land revenue will be tackled after the occupancy rights are conferred on the cultivators. The statement given

below shows the original and revision settlements carried out in the areas of the Dangs district. It may be observed that the district has only one taluka and is entirely rural.

Taluka	Original survey		Revision survey	
	Villages	Year of survey	Villages	Year of survey
Dangs	144	1955	2*	..
	80	1963	..	..
	80	1964	..	..
	5	1965	..	..
Total	309		2	

* These two villages belonged to the former Baroda State.

Before Independence the Dangis were cultivating lands under a system of shifting cultivation. For such cultivation the system of plough-tax or *halpatti* was suitable. But after Independence the lands have been surveyed and classified. For this purpose a land utilisation survey by the Agriculture Depratment was carried out between 1950 and 1960. Under the survey, villages have been divided into four classes, viz., A, B, C, D.

A—maximum good land for cultivation,

B—medium type cultivation,

C—low-type crop cultivation (growing grass), and

D—forest and *kharaba* areas.

This survey was primarily conducted for ultimate purpose of settlement of land revenue. But it served a very useful immediate purpose of determining the political pensions of the Chiefs and Naiks in 1954. The survey in all the 309 villages was carried out survey-numberwise and preliminary survey records were prepared such as *khetarwar patrak*, plot-book and the village map for the use of village daftar.

As no settlement of land revenue has been made so far, the *halpatti* is being recovered from all cultivators including the Chiefs and Naiks. The Government have decided to grant occupancy rights to the Dangis who were cultivating lands on 1st January, 1970. To implement these orders it is necessary to prepare *khatas* of the Dangis with details about survey number, area, *halpatti*, etc. After the survey of lands, the Dangis know the survey number and their areas under the cultivation.

METHOD OF SURVEY

In an almost purely agricultural district, the sheet-anchor of the financial administration has always been the revenue derived from the land. In the Dangs district, however, the reverse is the case. Being predominantly forest area, the revenue derived from the land had never been an important factor. The settlement and administration of the land revenue never engaged the attention of the Government. After Independence, the need, however, arose. The survey operations as explained already were undertaken. It would, therefore, be interesting to examine the method employed for survey.

As the plough-tax (*autbandhi*) system was in vogue, the need for survey and settlement of the villages in the district was not felt. The stages of the survey operations were as follows :

(1) the measurement of the village lands and the preparation of survey records based thereon,

(2) the construction of village maps and

(3) the demarcation of boundaries by means of boundary marks.

The methods of survey used were as follows :

(1) the traverse frame-work was obtained with the help of the theodolite survey by which village boundaries were measured for each of the village and with the help of the theodolite survey records, the detailed plane-table sheets were subsequently prepared.

The theodolite survey was the most essential and of considerable use in carrying out plane-table survey of fields, rivers, nullahs, forests, roads, etc. In detailed plane-table survey, the *khetarwar patraks* showing the area according to actual possession of each field, the name of the owner, the area of roads and forests were shown.

The village maps on small scale were prepared in triplicate on the basis of the detailed plane-table sheets with the help of pentograph. In the village maps, fields were shown with survey number in a serial order. *Khetarwar patraks* were prepared afresh thereafter according to survey numbers. The copies of the said statements and copies of the plane-table sheets were also prepared for preservation in 'B' records. Plot books were also prepared for the use of Talatis at the village.

In the foot-pound system, the chain is used which measures 33 feet and the area of 1 guntha is equal to 33′ × 33′.

Survey Records

Theodolite Survey	Plane-table Survey
1 Dharchhod *patrak*	1 Measurement sheet
2 Measurement *patrak*	2 Field-wise *patrak* (showing location)
3 Traverse *patrak*	3 Pentocut
4 Index Map	4 Field-wise *patrak* (According to survey number)
	5 Kamijasti *patrak*
	6 *Patrak* II 'A'
	7 Hissa form No. 4

The statement given below shows the Original and Revision settlements carried out in the district of the villages which formerly belonged to the former Baroda State :

Taluka	Name of villages	Former State	Year of original settlement	Year of revision settlement
Songadh ..	.. Harpada and Thorpada	Baroda	1902	1932

Classification of Soils

The district is predominantly a hilly area as it lies on the spurs and slopes of the valleys. Its soils, therefore, exhibit the characteristics of hilly area. Therefore, the system of soil classification, made applicable to the district is the Konkan system and not the Gujarat system. In this classification, sub-soil or additional factors of value have not been added. The soils of the district are divided into three classes, viz., (1) *varkas* (2) *kyari* (3) *malkhandi*.

Varkas—This is the lowest class of soil in the disrict. In this soil, crops like *nagli*, *warai* and *kodara* are grown. The *varkas* consists of enormous stretches of coarse and shallow soil. According to this system, the soils are divided in to four classes. In the first class, classification value is four annas, while in the fourth class, it is one anna.

Kyari—Sometimes, nullahs are formed on account of plenty of drainage received from high lands. With the passage of time, on account of inundation and silt deposits, there is gradual accretion of soil and the soil thereafter is contourbunded. The inferior quality of grain grown in this type of soil is sometimes rice. The maximum classification value according to the scale is 10 annas, while the minimum classification is 4 annas.

Malkhandi—Malkhandi land is formed by alluvial deposits. The soil so formed is the result of inundation and silt deposited on account of plenty of drainage received from higher levels. The maximum classification value

according to the scale is 12 annas, while the minimum classification value is 4 annas.

After classification of soils, classification records are prepared. They include (1) Prati book, (2) Darvari and (3) Correction register.

LAND REVENUE ADMINISTRATION

The Collector is the head of the district. Since the Dangs is one taluka district, there is no sub-division incharge of a Deputy Collector. But there is one post of a Mamlatdar-*cum*-Chitnis who attends to the revenue work of the district and the work in the Collector's office. He is assisted by a Mahalkari, Aval Karkuns and Clerks.

The district had 312 villages at the time of merger. Out of them 3 villages, viz., Harpada, Thorpada and Khokharvihir belonged to the former Baroda State. The Khokharvihir village was amalgamated in Harpada village in the year 1964. As a result, there are now 311 villages in the district. They are divided into 25 sejas comprising 11 to 15 villages. Each seja is placed under a separate Talati. Six or 7 sejas are grouped together to form a circle and placed under one Circle Inspector. There are 4 Circle Inspectors, having 25 Talatis under their control.

Functions of the Land Records Department

The office of the Land Records Department was started in the year 1949-50 in the Dangs district by appointing an Assistant Inspector of Land Records. As the district formed part of the Bombay State, the office was in the first instance put under the jurisdiction of the District Inspector of Land Records, Dhulia and thereafter, it was placed under the jurisdiction of the District Inspector of Land Records, Surat. A District Inspector of Land Records was appointed in 1952 but this post was discontinued from 1955 and a post of a clerk in his place was created. During this period, survey and classification operations of 147 villages were carried out. In 1960, once again the post of the District Inspector of Land Records was revived and since then, it is continued. By the end of November 1969, the survey operations of the remaining 165 villages were completed. The work that now remains to be done pertains to preparation of *akarbandhs* and *kayamkhardas* as all the lands vest in Government.

The Land Records Department is now a separate department of the Gujarat State and is an adjunct to the Revenue Department. At the State level, the Department is headed by the Settlement Commissioner and Director of Lands Records. For administrative purposes, the State is divided into circles, each in charge of a Superintendent of Land Records, who has under him the District Inspectors of Land Records functioning at the

district level. The functions of the Department are : (1) to maintain all survey, classification and settlement records up-to-date by keeping correct notes of all changes, (2) to carry out field operations preliminary to incorporation of the changes in the survey records, (3) to collect and provide statistics necessary for the sound administration of all matters connected with land, (4) to help reduce, simplify and cheapen litigation in revenue and civil courts by providing reliable survey and other records, (5) to supervise the preparation and maintenance of Records of Rights and of the periodical inspection of boundary marks, (6) to conduct periodical revision and settlement operations, (7) to organise and carry out village-site and city surveys and arrange for their proper maintenance, (8) to undertake special surveys for private individuals and public bodies, surveys in connection with railways, municipal and local development projects, town planning schemes, as also for the Defence and other Departments, (9) to maintain up-to-date village, taluka and district maps, reprint them and arrange for their distribution to various Government departments for administrative purposes and sale to the public and (10) to train revenue officers in survey and settlement matters.

The District Inspector of Land Records, Dangs is the principal officer at the district level in charge of the land records of the district. He is a gazetted officer (of a Mamlatdar's rank) appointed by the Settlement Commissioner and Director of Land Records and directly subordinate to the Superintendent of Land Records, Baroda circle, in all technical matters. Administratively he is subordinate to the Collector of Dangs and has to carry out his (Collector's) orders in the matter of survey and land records. He is assisted by (a) a Headquarters Assistant and (b) two Cadastral Surveyors, (c) four Circle Inspectors, (d) one Record Keeper and one Junior Clerk and Daftarband.

City and Village-site Survey

The district is mainly a forest area. There is not a single town or city in the district. Therefore, the question of city survey work does not arise in the Dangs distirct. In two big villages, viz., Ahwa and Waghai the Town Planning Department has undertaken the planning work.

Special Staff

As the original survey was to be conducted for the first time, special staff consisting of Surveyors, *nimatandars* and Head Surveyor was appointed. The work was completed in 1966, and the special staff was absorbed elsewhere.

As Government has decided to develop Saputara as hill-station in Gujarat, the master plan is being prepared by the Town Planning Department. In order to carry out the work according to the plans, two Surveyors have been sent on deputation at Saputara only for eight months.

Records of Rights

As occupancy rights have only been conferred recently, the ownership rights in land still vest in Government. The survey was conducted only of the cultivated area and the land is given to cultivators on annual leases, known as *patedari* system under which all lands belong to the Government. The land thus given on *eksali* basis is recorded in field register. A copy of the *patrak* and map are sent to the village Talatis through the Revenue Department. As the settlement has not been carried out the *hal-vero* system of land revenue continues even after merger.

Village Map

The detailed measurements carried on plane-table sheets are to be reduced by pento-graph. After that, the village map is drawn. The village maps are drawn on a scale of 1 centimetre = 50 metres (1″ = 10 chains) or 1 centimetre = 36·39 metres. Village maps are drawn for all the surveyed villages showing boundary marks, survey numbers and other topographical details such as river, nullahs, roads and hills. From these village maps, district maps are constructed either on a scale of 1″ = 1 mile or 1″ = 2 miles. However, a district map requires frequent revisions due to territorial changes and development works such as construction of new roads, hospitals, buildings and telephones under various plan schemes.

INCOME FROM LAND REVENUE AND OTHER CESSES CONNECTED WITH IT

Land revenue (*halpatti*) is one of the important sources of income in the district. The Statement XI·1 shows the demand, collection and arrears of land revenue (*halpatti*) from 1960-61 to 1969-70.

STATEMENT XI·1

The Demand, Collection and Arrears of Land Revenue (*halpatti*) in the Dangs District, from 1960-61 to 1969-70

Sr. No.	Year	Demand Rs. P.	Collection Rs. P.	Arrears Rs. P.
1	1960-61	60,110.56	54,852.81	5,257.75
2	1961-62	62,275.44	57,462.44	4,813.00
3	1962-63	62,228.44	58,279.94	3,948.50
4	1963-64	63,254.94	58.845.94	4,409.00
5	1964-65	68,144.69	64,503.69	3,641.00
6	1965-66	66,711.27	63,558.77	3,152.50
7	1966-67	79,254.97	73.103.47	6,151.50
8	1967-68	77,175.28	73,804.78	3,370.50
9	1968-69	79,670.04	76,654.54	3,015.50
10	1969-70	78,390.54	73,593.04	4,797.50

From the above statement it would be observed that barring the year 1962-63, there has been a steady increase in the demand and collection.

Local Fund Cess

Out of 311 villages of the Dangs district, only two villages of the former Baroda State, viz., Harpada and Thorpada are surveyed and settled. The Local Fund Cess in the district, therefore, is recovered from these two villages. The rest of the villages in the district are surveyed but not settled and therefore, have no fixed assessment of land revenue. The total demand and collection of Local Fund Cess for the year 1967-68 was, therefore, as low as Rs. 17·84.

Education Cess

After formation of the separate State of Gujarat, for promotion of education a surchage on agricultural and non-agricultural lands was levied by enacting the Gujarat Education Cess Act, 1962. The Act came into force from 1st August, 1962. An Education Cess Fund has been created out of the receipts from (1) surcharge on all lands, agricultural and non-agricultural assessed to land revenue and (2) tax on lands and buildings in urban areas. A surcharge of 20 per cent is levied with effect from 1st August, 1962 on agricultural lands which are assessed or held for the purpose of agriculture and not used for any purpose unconnected with agirculture. A surcharge varying from 12½ per cent to 75 per cent of non-agricultural assessment is levied on all unalienated lands subject to non-agricultural assessment and on all alienated lands (excluding village sites) used for purposes other than agricultural. These rates have been brought into effect from 1st August, 1962. In the urban areas, the lands and buildings are liable to rates of tax which vary from 2½ to 4½ per cent of the annual letting-value of the property. These rates have come into force from 1st October, 1965.

The surcharge levied on agricultural as well as non-agricultural lands is transferred at the end of the year to the State Education Cess Fund and utilised on schemes for promotion of education in the State. During 1963-64. Government has directed that one-third of the tax collected on lands and buildings within the municipal areas should be given to the municipalities as grant with effect from 1st August, 1962, the date from which the tax has been levied.

Education cess, in the district is levied only in two villages, viz., Harpada and Thorpada which have been transferred from the Surat district. All other villages are lying in the areas which are classed as reserved forest. The total demand and collection under this cess came to Rs. 18·10 in 1968-69 in the district.

RURAL WAGES

The size and growth of population circumscribe the pace of economic development. A study of the important features of population would give

a clue to not only the agrarian problems, but also to those of agricultural labour. It would also be interesting to examine the proportion of work force in agriculture and its components with reference to cultivators and agricultural labourers. The following statement indicates the proportion of persons working as cultivators and agricultural labourers to 1,000 of population.

Year	Cultivators	Agricultural labourers
1961	369	115

According to the 1961 Census, 26,091 persons in the district were returned as cultivators and 8,527 as agricultural labourers, the latter constituting 32·68 per cent of the former. This section analyses the difference in the wages earned for the different operations in which they are engaged. It will be observed that, " Persons who are working principally as cultivators and to whom agricultural labour is a secondary activity are proportionally larger, probably due to the fact that small holders of land prefer to take up agricultural labour as their secondary means of livelihood rather than go in for household industry which would not be easily available in forest areas. Similarly, the fact that a large proportion of agricultural labourers which appear to be the chief source of maintenance in the district work at cultivation to supplement their income, also bring out the complementary nature of cultivation and agricultural labour."[1]

The farm labour in the district is drawn from three Adivasi tribes, viz., Kunbi, Varli and Bhil. Casual labourers, however, are drawn from Bhil community though some Varlis and Kunbis also work as agricultural labourers. The farm labourers are recruited both for permanent and casual employment. The casual labour employment is common in the district. The wages paid are in kind as well as in cash. Ordinarily, the wages of female labour is lower than that of a male worker. This is evident from the fact that in 1969 the current wage rate for male labour was Rs. 1·75 as against Rs. 1·25 for female labour.

The statement given below indicates wages of agricultural labourers.

STATEMENT XI·2

Wages of Agricultural Labourers

Type of operation	Wages per day (in Rs.)		
	1960–61	1966–67	1967–68
1	2	3	4
	Male	Male	Male
Ploughing, harrowing, sowing and carting, etc. ..	1.50	1.75	2.00
Harvesting and threshing of cereals ..	1.25	1.50	1.75

Source :

District Agricultural Officer, Dangs, Ahwa.

1. *District Census Handbook*, Dangs, 1961, p. 16.

From the statement it is observed that a male labourer in 1960-61 was paid Rs. 1·50 per day for ploughing, harrowing, sowing and carting. The same increased to Rs. 1·75 in 1966-67 and Rs. 2 in 1967-68. Similar increase is also noticed in respect of wage rate paid to the male labourer for harvesting and threshing of cereals. In 1960-61, the wage rate was Rs. 1·25 per day which increased to Rs. 1·50 in 1966-67 and Rs. 1·75 in 1967-68.

REGISTRATION OF DOCUMENTS

Under section 17 of the Indian Registration Act (XVI of 1908), the registration of instruments of immovable property is compulsory. These documents are divided into four categories, viz.,

(1) instruments of gift of immovable property,

(2) other non-testamentary instruments, which purport or operate to create, declare, assign, limit or extinguish any right, title or interest of the value of Rs. 100 or upwards to or in immovable property and receipt or payment of any consideration of such documents,

(3) leases of immovable property from year to year or for any term exceeding one year or reserving a yearly rent, and

(4) non-testamentary instruments transferring or assigning any decrees, order of a court or any award, when such decree or order or award purports or operate to create, declare, assign, limit or extinguish any right, title or interest of the value of Rs. 100 and upwards, to or immovable property.

There are certain documents, however, the registration of which is optional under section 18 of the Act. These are documents of immovable property valued at less than Rs. 100, leases exempted under section 17, wills, notices of pending suits or proceedings referred to in section 62 of the Transfer of Property Act, and all other documents not required to be registered under section 17. As a rule, fees are levied for the registration of all documents, but State Government has exempted co-operative societies registered under the Gujarat Co-operative Societies Act, 1961 from the payment of such fees. Certain types of societies enjoy restricted exemption in respect of certain documents involving consideration upto a prescribed limit, registration fees being charged on documents with higher consideration.

The fees chargeable on instruments not exceeding Rs. 5,000 executed by the farmers for electrification of wells and for financing of pumps and other equipments in favour of commercial banks are also remitted by the Government.

Registry Offices—There is only one *ex-officio* Sub-Registrar in the Dangs district. The Revenue Aval Karkun is working as an *ex-officio* Sub-Regisrar and the Collector is an *ex-officio* District Registrar.

District Registrar—The Collector is an *ex-officio* District Registrar who exercises powers of supervision and inspection over the entire registration staff in the district. Though the Sub-Registrars are appointed by the Inspector General of Registration, the District Registrar has powers to fill in the temporary vacancies. He hears appeals and applications preferred to him under sections 72 and 73 of the Indian Registration Act (XVI of 1908) against refusals to register documents by the Sub-Registrar under him. Under sections 25 and 34 of the Act, he is empowered to condone delays in presentation of documents and appearance of executants provided the delay does not exceed four months, and directs such documents to be registered on payment of a fine not exceeding ten times the proper registration fee. He is also competent to order refund in the case of surcharges and to grant full or partial remission of safe custody fees in suitable cases. Under section 42 of the Act, a will or codicil may be deposited in a sealed cover and may be got registered at the cost of the party desiring it after the depositor's death. He is also authorised to record and register the births and deaths under the Births, Deaths and Marriage Registration Act, (VI of 1886).

Sub-Registrar—The main functions of the Sub-Registrar are to register documents, keep a record of all documents registered and send to officers concerned extracts from documents affecting immovable property in respect of which a record of rights is maintained. Every Sub-Registrar is an *ex-officio* Sub-Registrar for the registration of births and deaths.

In the year 1969, the average annual income of the Registration office in the district was Rs. 18, as against this the average annual expenditure was Rs. 183. Copying of documents is done by hand. In all, four documents were registered in the year 1967. All the documents were compulsorily registrable and were relating to immovable property for the aggregate value of Rs. 4,000. Since the land vests in Government and none is permitted to build *pucca* houses in the Dangs, the transactions of immovable property are practically nil.

STAMPS

The Superintendent of Stamps, Ahmedabad, is the authority controlling the supply and sale of non-postal stamps. The Collector as the administrative head of the district is in charge of the entire work relating to the stamps. He has to regulate the sale of the stamps and ensure collection of stamp duties. There is a treasurer in the treasury at Ahwa. The work of sale of stamps to the public is done by a Treasury Clerk under the direct

supervision of the Sub-Treasury Officer, Ahwa, who at present is a non-gazetted officer. He is in charge of the local depot at Ahwa and responsible for the maintenance of the stock of stamps, and their sale. Refund of value of unused, spoiled and obsolete stamps is not within the competence of the Sub-Treasury Officer, as these powers are not delegated to him after the separation of the Treasury from the Revenue Department. These powers are still excercised by the Collector, Deputy Collector, Mamlatdar and Mahalkari. A depot is located at Ahwa and is in charge of the Sub-Treasury Officer, Ahwa.

For the convenience of the public, stamps are sold at the Ahwa Sub-Treasury, as there are no stamp vendors in the district. This district is predominantly a tribal area and generally the Dangi people are exempted from the stamp duties. Thus, the stamps of high denominations have not been kept at the Sub-Treasury, Ahwa. The total income realised from the sale of stamps in the Dangs district in the year 1968-69 was Rs. 665·50 for non-judicial stamps and Rs. 1,105·57 for judicial stamps.

Other Sources of Income

In order to meet the growing expenditure on developmental activities, the State and Central Governments have to augment their financial resources by tapping additional resources of revenue. The other sources of income are sales tax, taxes on motor-vehicles, State and Central excise, income-tax, etc. These are briefly examined below.

Sales Tax

Sales tax in the Dangs district was first introduced with effect from 1st October, 1948. It provided for a levy of single-point tax at the last stage on sales of goods under the Bombay Sales Tax Act, 1946. From 1st November, 1952 to 31st March, 1954, the Bombay Sales Tax Ordinance (No. 2) 1952 and Bombay Sales Tax Act, 1953 (unamended) were in force. Under this system, a system of multiple taxation with a single-point levy in addition to general levy was introduced. This system, however, was again replaced by what was known as two-point system in April, 1954 under the Bombay Sales Tax Act, 1953 (amended). The two point system continued in the area of the old Bombay State till 31st December, 1959.

Since different systems of sales tax operated in the constituent units of the former Bombay State, the Bombay Government appointed a Committee under the chairmanship of Shri Babubhai J. Patel to evolve a uniform system of sales tax for the entire State. On the basis of the recommendations, the Bombay Sales Tax Act, 1959 was enacted and enforced from 1st January, 1960. After bifurcation of the Bombay State, this Act of 1959 was adopted by the Gujarat State. In order to rationalise the tax structure

and to further simplify the procedure of assessment for removing the hardships of the dealers, the Government of Gujarat constituted in 1967 the Sales Tax Enquiry Committee with Shri M. M. Odedra as chairman. The terms of reference were to examine the existing system of sales tax, to review its working and to make recommendations for the rationalisation of the structure of the sales tax, simplification of procedures, measures for removal of hardships of dealers and streamlining the administrative system. In making recommendations, the Committee was asked to take into account the revenue requirements of the State and measures for avoidance and evasion of tax. This Committee submitted its report to Government on 28th June, 1968. Its main recommendation relates to the provision of a single-point tax. On the basis of these recommendations, a Sales Tax Bill, 1969 was introduced in the Assembly and the Act called Gujarat Sales Tax Act, 1969 was passed and made applicable to the entire State with effect from 6th May, 1970. Its salient features are (i) that a single-point levy is combined with a double-point levy; (ii) that a levy of retail sales tax is abolished and (iii) that small manufacturers and traders of special category with an annual turnover of Rs. 30,000 are exempted from the tax. It is hoped that these provisions will greatly benefit the traders.

For the Dangs district, there is no separate Sales Tax Office. However, the work pertaining to the enforcement of the sales tax law in the district is attended to by the Sales Tax Office, Bulsar at present. Formerly, the work was entrusted to the Sales Tax Office, Navsari and the Sales Tax Office, Surat.

The total collection of sales tax in the Dangs district amounted to Rs. 14,643 for the year 1967-68.

TAXES ON MOTOR VEHICLES

Taxes on motor vehicles constitute one of the important sources of State revenues. The Motor Vehicles Department is responsible for the proper administration of the Indian Motor Vehicles Act, 1939 and Rules made thereunder. It also collects taxes on motor vehicles, passengers and goods carried by road under (1) the Bombay Motor Vehicles Tax Act, 1958, (2) the Bombay Motor Vehicles (Taxation of Passengers) Act, 1958, and (3) the Gujarat Carriage of Goods Taxation Act, 1962. It also carries out in general the duties and responsibilities enjoined on it under the provisions of these Acts and Rules made thereunder.

Administrative Set-up

The Department is headed by the Director of Transport with headquarters at Ahmedabad. From October, 1963, the State has been divided into three regions, viz., Ahmedabad, Baroda and Rajkot. Accordingly,

there are three Regional Offices, each of them being headed by a Regional Transport Officer. The Dangs district has been placed in the Baroda Region. Under the Baroda Region, there is a Sub-Regional Office at Surat comprising revenue districts of Surat, Bulsar and Dangs. From October, 1969 the Sub-Regional Office at Surat has been upgraded to the regional status. Separate figures of revenue for the Dangs district are not available but they are available for the entire sub-region of Surat (districts of Surat, Bulsar and Dangs). The net collections of revenue for the Surat Region for the year 1967-68 were as under :

	Name of the Act	Amount in Rs.
1	Indian Motor Vehicles Act, 1939	2,62,629·15
2	Bombay Motor Vehicles Act, 1958	50,72,866·50
3	Bombay Motor Vehicles (Taxation of Passengers) Act, 1958	54,921·50
4	Gujarat Carriage of Goods Taxation Act 1962 ..	12,63,668·50
	Total	**66,54,085·65**

STATE EXCISE

History

The Bombay Abkari Act was made applicable to the Dangs under the order contained in G. R. No. 7465, Political Department, dated 11th November, 1889. In 1931, under G. R. 7446/28, dated 14th September, 1931 Government fixed vacation period of 3½ months from 16th February, to 31st May, every year during which no permit or pass was necessary for collection and possession of Mahuda flowers. During the remaining period, no Mahuda was to be kept by anyone Liquor was not allowed to be sold from any shop to any Government servant in uniform or the minors. But Chiefs were allowed to import small quantities of opium for private consumption. The liquor licensees were asked to maintain accounts of sale.

Administrative Set-up

Excise or Abkari revenue at present is one of the sources of State income, though not an important one in view of the policy of the total prohibition adopted by the Government of Gujarat. So far as the Dangs district is concerned its contribution is nil. The Prohibition and Excise Department in the district is responsible for the administration of the Bombay Prohibition Act, 1949, the Bombay Opium Smoking Act, 1936, Bombay Drugs (Control) Act, 1959, the Dangerous Drugs Act, 1930, the

Medicinal and Toilet Preparations (Excise Duties) Act, 1955 and Spirituous Preparations (Inter-State Trade and Commerce) Control Act, 1955.

The activities of this department in the district is carried on by the Superintendent of Prohibition and Excise, Bulsar. He looks after the work of the Prohibition and Excise Department in the Dangs district. The Prohibition Officer, Dangs looks after the prohibition propaganda work in the district.

The State Government levies excise duty on the following commodities under section 105 of the Bombay Prohibition Act, 1949 :

(a) any alcoholic preparation for human consumption,

(b) any intoxicating drug and hemp,

(c) opium, and

(d) any other excisable article as defined in section 2 (13) of the Bombay Prohibition Act, 1949.

The total net revenue derived from excise in the district during the years 1966-67 and 1967-68 was nil.

CENTRAL EXCISE

The Dangs district is placed under the jurisdiction of the Inspector of Central Excise, Chikhli which is in the Bulsar district. There are no factories manufacturing any excisable commodities in the district. Moreover, tobacco is also not grown nor is there any warehouse for storing it in the district. The revenue realised, therefore, is nil. The Central Excise, therefore, in the Dangs district, carries no importance.

INCOME-TAX

This is one of the direct taxes levied and collected by the Central Government and is one of the most important taxes of the Central Government. At the State level, there is a Commissioner of Income-tax. There is one Inspecting Assistant Commissioner of Income-tax stationed at Surat within whose jurisdiction the Dangs district falls. The Dangs district is under the jurisdiction of Income-tax Officer, Bulsar. The Dangs district is known for its forest wealth. There are only two trading centres in the district, viz., Ahwa and Waghai. The business activities in these two towns are confined only to the bare necessities of life. From the political pension given to the Chiefs and Naiks of the Dangs district, income-tax amounting to about Rs. 7,000 is deducted at the source.

The details of the number of assessees and realisation of Income-tax in the district for the years 1960-61 to 1967-68 are given below :

Year		Under Rs. 5,000		Over Rs. 5,000		Total	
		Number of assessees	Amount of tax (in thousand rupees)	Number of assessees	Amount of tax (in thousand rupees)	Number of assessees	Amount of tax (in thousand rupees)
1		2	3	4	5	6	7
1960—61	..	10	..	49	58	59	58
1961—62	..	13	..	52	61	65	61
1962—63	..	14	..	53	68	67	68
1963—64	..	18	..	54	72	72	72
1964—65	..	21	..	54	78	75	78
1965—66	..	25	..	51	82	76	82
1966—67	..	23	..	57	94	80	94
1967—68	..	30	..	55	98	85	98

The foregoing statement shows a progressive increase in the number of assessees and the amount of Income-tax realised in the district. The revenue realized by the Income-tax Department, until recently, was in the range of about a lakh of rupees per year.

(Bk) H-11—49 (Lino)

ANNEXURE I

Standing Orders and Administrative Rules

1. *Claim to Land for Cultivation*

Cultivation of a portion of land gives a prior claim to cultivate that portion in succeeding years.

2. *Rate of Assessment*

(a) Both in Dangs villages and co-shared villages assessment is to be levied at a uniform rate of Rs. 6-8-0 per plough.

(b) The assessment for the co-shared villages will be collected by the Dangs Diwan or Aval Karkun at Ahwa and the Rajas concerned may keep themselves present at Ahwa at the time of collecting assessment if they like to do so.

(c) The same printed receipt books to be used and the same procedure followed for Dangs villages as for co-shared villages.

(d) Persons using ploughs for which no fees have been paid by 31st July, will be liable to be charged double the ordinary fees. The normal plough fee will be credited to the Public Fund, and at the discretion of the Deputy Political Agent, the Patel in whose village the default is made will be liable to a fine of Rs. 5 (to be credited to the Public Fund) and to loss of turban at Darbar.

3. *Collection of Land Revenue*

(a) All land revenue should be paid in Dangs Diwan's Office from April to July. Hand ploughs will be charged at half the rate laid down in S. O. Rule No. 10 (a). This order also applies to the shared villages and Jagirdari.

(b) The revenue of the co-shared villages shall be collected at the same time as the Dangs villages revenue and a separate receipt book shall be maintained for the issue of the receipts in respect of the land revenue of these co-shared villages.

(c) All *patti* collected at Dangs villages as well as of co-shared villages must be remitted into the treasury at the end of each week, i. e., on the last working day of each week and an abstract account submitted to the Deputy Political Agent, Dangs at the end of the month.

ANNEXURE I—*concld.*

(d) No Chief will, receive any *patti* amount direct from the cultivator for his use but will direct them to the Diwan's office.

(e) All Bhils who are not related or are distant relatives of the Chiefs shall pay *patti.*

4. No settler may hold land both within and outside the Dangs, and no settler other than Kaliparaj shall be allowed to settle in the Dangs without the previous sanction of the Deputy Political Agent, Dangs, to whom all proposed cases shall be submitted for approval.

5. Every encouragement should be given to induce new settlers conformably to S. O. s. 13* and 14 above to come into the Dangs as they provide labour for Forest works and increase the *patti* due to the Chiefs. New settlers are to be registered with the Dangs Diwan in the "New Settlers" register which shall form a record from which rewards will be granted to Patels who have induced outsiders to live in the Dangs.

6. *Government Servants not to Cultivate*

(a) No permanent or temporary 12 monthly Government servant employed in the Dangs is permitted to cultivate land therein nor is any member of his family without the special written permission of the Deputy Political Agent. Such permission will rarely (if ever) be granted to the member of a family of any man drawing local allowance, the receipt of which shows that he claims to be a non-permanent inhabitant of the Dangs.

(b) This order does not apply to the growing of a small quantity of vegetables near the employee's place of residence.

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*No. 13. *Settler from outside the Dangs*

Those persons from outside coming to reside in the Dangs are required to execute an agreement and furnish security as provided in the accompanying Form. This is to secure the Dangs from loss owing to cultivators coming for one year free of assessment and destroying forest growth.

Contract for Residence in the Dangs by outsiders

I......... having come from..........village ....Taluka............ District to reside..........village......... ...Dangs. hereby agree to reside in the Dangs for a period of not less than 10 years continuously. Should I fail to carry out this agreement, I undertake to pay to the Dangs Diwan on behalf of the........... Rajah/ Naik a sum of Rs. 50 before leaving the Dangs.

(Sd).
Outside Settler.
Before me
Dangs Diwan.

Witness (2)

Source :
From--Dangs Political Standing Order File : (1st May, 1940) Deputy Political Agent, Chapter VII—Administrations, *Administrative Rules.*

CHAPTER XII

LAW, ORDER AND JUSTICE

Police

INTRODUCTION

Before the advent of the British, the position of law and order was far from satisfactory. As seen in the Chapter on "History", the people of the Dangs mostly comprising Bhils and other Adivasi tribes were most daring and carried out depredations far and wide. The Bhils appeared in gangs and attacked villages, broke houses, and committed robberies. They plundered and burnt villages and looted innocent people and meted out most inhuman treatment to them. "There is no local corps in the Dang nor any organised native force, but every Bheel is called on to carry arms in case of emergency. Nor is there any police in the country, each Bheel being his own policeman. No sum is contributed to the maintenance of general peace of the country, as the regular payment of Girass to the Bhils secures peace to the borders of contiguous States."[1]

After the arrival of the British on the political scene, attempts were made to restore law and order. Military operations were carried out. Chains of military posts were established along the foot of the hills to intercept supplies and to act immediately on information. In 1825, the Court of Directors ordered formation of the Bhil corps of the Khandesh Bhils, to curb the Bhil insurrections. The operation of the Bhil corps, the auxiliary force and the strong detachment of the regular troops led to great decrease in the crimes throughout the territories.

Writing about the Bhil corps, Capt. J. Rose in 1855 observed, "Besides the public security afforded by the Bheel Corps, every village in the province is now supplied with its hereditary Jagla or watchman."

"These village guardians, who were robbers once, have thus, like the sepoys of the Bheel corps, became preservers instead of disturbers of good order."[2]

Slowly and gradually, situation began to calm down when the first Bhil settlement was attempted by the Political Agent, Khandesh, in 1818.

1. *Selections from the Records of the Bombay Government*, No. XXVI, New Series, (1856) : Narrative of British Relations with the petty Native Estates within the limits of the Khandesh Collectorate by Mr. S. Mansfield, Collector of Khandesh vide his Report to Government, dated 21st June, 1854.

2. Bombay Government Selection, No. XXVI.

The British Government also proclaimed that all Bhils returning to their respective villages should be provided with grains by the Patels. In 1845, the Western Bhil Agency was re-established. A number of Bhils under this Agency were enabled to become cultivators of land by the grant of pecuniary help and rent-free lease of land from Government. Bhil colonies were established along the Sindva Ghat line of roads, a deserted and pestilential tract where robberies were almost rampant. The effect of this step had been almost total freedom from robbery and the clearance of the jungle for cultivation purposes which caused favourable change. The number of Bhil cultivators gradually increased. General peace and good order were thus established in this turbulent area.

Mr. Hodgson, who was the first Divisional Forest Officer and Assistant Political Agent, Dangs, laid down certain rules, which streamlined the police administration.

On the eve of Independence the position of police force in the Dangs was as follows. The sanctioned strength of police force in the Dangs was 1 Chief Constable, 5 Head Constables and 22 Constables. The police force worked under the direct command of a Chief Constable who was deputed usually for two to three years from the Baroda, Western India and Gujarat States Residency police cadre. The rest of the police were whole-time officials of the Dangs Administration, a substantial proportion of them being the Dangis by origin. Supervisory charge of the police was exercised by the Deputy Inspector General of Police, Baroda, Western India and Gujarat States Residency, through the Deputy Superintendent of Police, Gujarat States Agency, Baroda Residency. The police administrative rules were those in force in the Baroda, Western India and Gujarat States Residency which were nearly identical with those in force in the Bombay Province.[1]

Functions of Police

The primary functions of the police are prevention and detection of crime, maintenance of law and order, apprehension of offenders, escorting and guarding of prisoners, protecting Government treasuries, private or public property of which they may be placed in charge and prosecution of criminals. They have, however, certain other duties to perform such as inspection of shops selling explosives and poisonous drugs, extinguishing fires, giving aid to the displaced persons and pilgrims, verification of characters, passports and citizenship inquiries.

Certain other functions devolving on the police under the Bombay Police Act, 1951, as adapted and applied to Gujarat State are : (a) prompt service of summons and execution of warrants, (b) obtaining information concerning the commission of cognizable offences, (c) prevention of com-

1. *Administration Report for the Dangs*, (1st August, 1944 to 31st March, 1946), p. 10

mission of public nuisances, (d) apprehension of culprits, (e) offering assistance to the disabled or helpless persons, taking charge of intoxicated persons and of lunatics at large who appear dangerous or incapable of taking care of themselves, (f) prevention of loss or damage by fire and avoidance of any accident and danger to the public, (g) regulation and control of the traffic and maintenance of order at public places like temples, fairs, public bathing and washing places, etc., and (h) discharge of other duties imposed upon them by any law in force for the time being.

Incidence of Crime

The following statement shows the incidence of crime committed in the district in the years 1961 and 1969. It will appear that the crime graph has witnessed a steep fall from 225 in 1961 to 130 in 1969. Among these the fall in the crimes committed under the special and other local laws is noteworthy. It is remarkable that not a single offence (1) against the State, (2) army and navy, (3) public servant, (4) false evidence, (5) coins, (6) Government stamps, (7) weights and measures, (8) religion, (9) causing of miscarriage, (10) wrongful restraint and confinement, (11) criminal force, (12) kidnapping, (13) rape, (14) unnatural offence, (15) extortion, (16) criminal misappropriation, (17) cheating, (18) fraudulent deeds, (19) offences relating to documents, trade, or property marks, (20) breach of contract, (21) marriages, (22) defamation, and (23) criminal intimidation, insult and annoyance was reported during the period under review. Hurt and criminal trespass may be considered minor offences.

The offences relating to the disturbance of public tranquillity and contempt of the lawful authority of public servants figure for the first time in the list of crimes in 1969. This is indicative of the political consciousness brought about among the Dangis under the impact of the development programmes.

Incidence of Crime

Sl. No.	Description of offence	Number of offences 1961	1969
1	Against the State	..	..
2	Relating to the Army and Navy	..	..
3	Public tranquillity	.	1
4	Relating to public servants	..	..
5	Contempt of the lawful authority of public servant ..	..	1
6	False evidence	..	..

Incidence of Crime—concld.

Sl. No.	Description of offence	Number of offences 1961	1969
7	Relating to coins	..	..
8	Relating to Government stamps	..	..
9	Relating to weights and measures	..	..
10	Affecting the public health, safety, convenience, decency and morals	2	..
11	Relating to religion	..	..
12	Affecting life	3	1
13	Causing of miscarriage, etc.	..	..
14	Hurt	16	11
15	Wrongful restraint and confinement	..	..
16	Criminal force	..	..
17	Kidnapping, etc.	..	.
18	Rape	..	..
19	Unnatural offence	..	..
20	Theft	5	4
21	Extortion	..	..
22	Robbery	2	1
23	Criminal misappropriation	..	..
24	Breach of trust	3	1
25	Stolen property	1	..
26	Cheating	..	..
27	Fraudulent deeds, etc.	..	..
28	Mischief	1	1
29	Criminal trespass	6	5
30	Offences relating to documents, trade or property marks ..	..	..
31	Breach of contract	..	..
32	Offences relating to marriages	..	..
33	Defamation	..	..
34	Criminal intimidation, insult and annoyance	..	..
35	Under special and other local laws	186	104
	Total	**225**	**129**

Source :

District and Sessions Judge, Bulsar.

POLICE DIVISIONS

The general pattern of the police administration in the district is as follows. At the district level there is a District Superintendent of Police, who is responsible for maintenance of law and order in the district. The district is divided into subdivisions numbering two to three depending upon population, nature of crimes in the area, etc. Each subdivision is in charge of an officer of the rank of Assistant Superintendent of Police or Deputy Superintendent of Police, who is responsible for the control of crimes within his range and works under the general orders, supervision and guidance of the District Superintendent of Police. He holds detailed inspection of police stations and outposts in his charge at regular intervals. The District Superintendent of Police also inspects all Police Stations and outposts in a year. Each subdivision has one or more Police Inspectors. Inspectors have to supervise crime work and bad characters and gangs in their divisions. They also supervise and co-ordinate the crime work of the different police stations within their divisions.

After the formation of the State of Gujarat, the Dangs district was placed under the District Superintendent of Police, Surat. But after the Surat district was bifurcated into the districts of Surat and Bulsar in June, 1964, it was placed under the District Superintendent of Police, Bulsar as an additional charge. Then there was only one police station at Ahwa in charge of the Police Sub-Inspector for the entire district. There was no separate Collector but only Resident-*cum*-Deputy Collector at Ahwa. Since April, 1970 a separate Collector has been appointed for the district. As a result, a new post of a Circle Police Inspector, Dangs, has been created. The Waghai outpost has been upgraded to a police station and placed in charge of a Police Sub-Inspector and the police strength has also been increased. At Ahwa headquarters, there is a Home Police Inspector who works as personal assistant to the District Superintendent of Police, Bulsar. Besides there are Police Sub-Inspectors for the Local Intelligence Branch and the Local Crime Branch. For prohibition work, 3 Task Forces have been appointed to carry out prohibition raids in Bulsar and Dangs districts. Since the Dangs district is placed under the additional charge of the District Superintendent of Police, Bulsar, the Sub-Divisional Police Officer, Navsari Division, the Police Sub-Inspectors of Local Intelligence Branch and Local Crime Branch attend to the police work in the Dangs district also. No separate District Superintendent of Police or Deputy Superintendent of Police is appointed for the district, as it is a non-criminal district.

There are two police stations at Ahwa and Waghai. Besides there are two outposts at Subir and Chinchli under the Ahwa police station. Under the Waghai police station, there is only one outpost at Saputara.

The sanctioned strength of the police in the district is one Circle Police Inspector, two Police Sub-Inspectors, 12 unarmed Head Constables, 34 unarmed Police Constables, 6 armed Head Constables, 19 armed Police Constables and 2 Wireless Operators—all under the additional charge of the District Superintendent of Police, Bulsar.

The Ahwa police station has been provided with a jeep car for detection and disposal of crime cases. One jeep car, for the time being from Mehsana, is also provided for the Gram Rakshak Dal and Mahila Gram Rakshak Dal activities in the Dangs district.

The Government has imposed an embargo on the movement from the district of foodgrains, grass and cattle without valid permit across the State borders. For checking illicit smuggling of these items in the adjoining Maharashtra State, every year one State Reserve Police Company comprising 100 men is being posted to open check-posts on the outlets leading to the Maharashtra borders. These check-posts are closed in monsoon. The State Reserve Police has also to undertake border patrolling, maintain law and order and carry out other emergency duties. One check-post of the State Reserve Police is also kept at Saputara. There is a wireless station in the district at Ahwa.

The expenditure on officers and establishment in the district for the year 1969 amounted to Rs. 1,46,408. The ratio of the police to the area and population was that there was one policeman for 23·21 sq. kms. and 760 persons. Out of the total strength of 3 officers, only one is provided with a Government accommodation. As regards constabulary, 47 policemen are provided with Government quarters.

Village Police

Each village generally has a Police Patel under the control of the local police. He is required to collect information regarding suspicious characters and send them to the police stations. They have to assist the police for the maintenance of law and order in controlling crimes and criminals. They also supply information regarding the happenings in their respective villages to the beat duty Head Constables. They are assisted by the Kotwals in the performance of their duties.

Home Guards

The Home Guards function under the direct control of the Commandant General, Home Guards, Ahmedabad. The Home Guards organisation at district level is under the charge of the Home Guards Commandant with headquarters at Ahwa. This organisation is non-political and non-communal.

It helps the police in maintaining peace and prevention of crime against person and property. They are called out in emergencies like fire and civic commotions like riots for patrolling and providing assistance to the people.

Home Guards are imparted training in squad drill, *lathi* drill, arms drill, firing, use of bayonets and physical exercises. They are also trained in signalling by flags or hands. Their functions consist mainly of guarding public buildnigs, patrolling in the town, prevention of crime and assisting the police in their duties. They are paid daily allowance when called on duty. The strength of Home Guard cadets in the district is 40 at present.

Gram Rakshak Dal

Besides village police, another organisation established by the Government for the protection of rural areas is the Gram Rakshak Dal. To assist police in the maintenance of law and order and to have a trained village defence party, about 25 members of a village are appointed in Gram Rakshak Dal. The appointment is made by the District Superintendent of Police, who is the appointing authority under the Bombay Police Act, 1951. They are given training in drill and arms by a Drill Inspector of the Police Department. The Dal is very useful in prevention and detection of crimes and in emergencies like fire-fighting, flood control, etc. They perform patrolling at night near the fields to stop crop thefts. There are dense jungles in the Dangs. The Gram Rakshak Dal has been very useful in preventing thefts of Government wood from forests. Adivasis were not coming forward to join Gram Rakshak Dal in the initial stages. Now, not only males but females have also volunteered to enroll their names for membership of the Gram Rakshak Dal. It has helped create self-confidence amongst the villagers to fight against any calamity and danger. This Dal is also useful in controlling anti-social activities. They prepare roads, wells, etc. Members of the Gram Rakshak Dal are recommended for arms licence in deserving cases. One Honorary Gram Rakshak Dal Adhikari and one Gram Rakshak Dal Head Constable are placed in charge of these activities in the district. A Police Sub-Inspector and extra Drill Instructors are provided from the Police headquarters at Bulsar to hold more training camps simultaneously in the district.

At present, Gram Rakshak Dals have been organised in 163 villages. There are 163 Naiks, 128 Up-Naiks and 2,423 members. Of these 277 Naiks and Up-Naiks and 2,282 members have been trained in drill and musketry.

Mahila Gram Rakshak Dal

Like the Gram Rakshak Dal, a similar organisation for women was started in the wake of the Pakistani aggression in 1965. The main objective of organising a sepatate wing for women was to inculcate in them a spirit

of defence and to induce them to take part in protecting life and property in the village. During such emergencies as flood, fire, earthquake, etc., they are required to give first aid to the injured and prepare food for the affected. One of the main functions of the Mahila Gram Rakshak Dal is to render help in saving women from the clutches of anti-social elements. Any woman between the ages of 18 and 50 years possessing good health, character and education upto the fourth standard, is eligible for recruitment as a member of the Mahila Gram Rakshak Dal.

At present, the Mahila Gram Rakshak Dal consists of 43 Naiks, 38 Up-Naiks and 227 female members. They are organised by honorary Mahila Gram Rakshak Dal organisers from the Surat and Bulsar districts.

Jails

Organisation

Prisons in the Gujarat State are constituted under the Prisons Act of 1894. The Inspector General of Prisons, Gujarat State, Ahmedabad, is the head of the Jail Department appointed under section 5 of the Prisons Act, and exercises, subject to the orders of the State Government, general control and superintendence over all prisons, jails and the headquarter sub-jails in the State. The Jail Department functions under the Home Department.

The Dangs being a one-taluka district, there is only one sub-jail at Ahwa. The Mamlatdar-*cum*-Chitnis works as the Superintendent and a clerk from the Collector's office at Ahwa works as the jailor for which he is paid a special pay of Rs. 5 per month. The duties of the jail guards are performed by the armed police of the Police Department.

There was neither any convict nor undertrial in the jail as on 26th December, 1969. This shows that the Dangis do not have criminal propensities.

During the last 10 years, no case of breach of prison discipline has been reported.

Welfare of Prisoners

Though jails are considered penal institutions, the policy of Government towards prisoners is not retribution or revenge but of reformation and rehabilitation. As a result, whatever may be the cause of a prisoner's entry into a jail, the jail administration provides training so as to enable him after release to settle down as honest, decent and useful citizen of the community. With this end in view, various reforms have been introduced in jails. These are : (1) remission of sentence for good behaviour, (2) grant

of furlough and parole, (3) earning of wages for productive work in jails, (4) canteen facilities with permission to spend upto Rs. 10 per month from the wages earned by them in jail on items like tea, milk, cigarettes, match boxes, soap, etc., and (5) cultural activities in the form of *bhajans*, songs, sport competitions, etc.

Treatment of Prisoners

The jail at Ahwa is classified as a sub-jail where short-term prisoners sentenced upto six months' imprisonment are kept. Prisoners are classified into undertrial prisoners, civil prisoners, prisoners having simple imprisonment and those undergoing rigorous imprisonment.

Ordinarily, convicts are allowed to write one letter per month, whereas undertrial prisoners can do so once a week at Government cost. Interviews with outside persons including relatives are allowed once a month to the convicts, while such interviews are allowed once a week in case of undertrial prisoners. Additional interviews are also granted in deserving cases.

JUVENILES AND BEGGARS

The activities for the welfare of juveniles and beggars in this district are regulated under the two special Acts, viz., (1) the Bombay Children Act, 1948, and (2) the Bombay Probation of Offenders Act, 1938.

The controlling authority under these laws is the Directorate of Social Defence, Gujarat State, with headquarters at Ahmedabad.

Remand Home, Ahwa

A Remand Home for boys has been started at Ahwa by Government in 1968 to implement the provisions of the Bombay Children Act, 1948. It provides training in craft and literacy to the inmates who are detained in the Home till their cases are finally decided by the Juveniles Court. The children requiring institutional correction and treatment are committed to different certified schools in the State, while some are committed to the Remand Home also pending vacancy in the certified schools. The Remand Home is housed in a Government building. It has accommodation for 20 inmates. This institution has the following staff, (1) Superintendent and Probation Officer-1, (2) Literacy-*cum*-Craft Teacher-1, (3) Guards-2, (4) Part-time visiting Medical Officer-1, (5) Cook-1 and other staff.

The Bombay Probation of Offenders Act, 1938

The Chief Officer, who is appointed under the Bombay Probation of Offenders Act, at Bulsar also looks after the implementation of the Act in the Dangs district

Judiciary

Historical Background

Prior to the intervention of the British in the early part of the 19th century, the administration of justice in the Dangs was almost rudimentary. The Dangs were ruled by the Rajas and Naiks. There were 14 such Chiefs, of whom 4 were Rajas, who ruled over large areas. Similarly, there were 10 Naiks having jurisdiction over small areas. These Rajas and Naiks exercised judicial powers and administered justice to people and were powerful enough to maintain law and order in their respective territories. Culprits were punished, generally by levy of fines. The British, after the conquest of Khandesh in 1818, found that justice was dispensed in a rough and ready manner according to the custom and traditions of the Dangis. The position is aptly described in the historical records of the Dangs as under :

> "With regard to the administration of civil and criminal justice, the Rajahs investigate all offences and disputes according to ancient customs, punishing principally by fines and without any regular system of procedure or organised laws. It is only very recently that we have interfered before which they were in habit of disposing of even the most serious crimes in a most summary manner and if the punishment of death was awarded, the victim was shot to death by arrows. The belief in witchcraft was at one time very prevalent and even now continues to be so. The Bheels were in the habit of burning witches alive as has often been done in civilised country. This ceased after the British Government took political charge of the country."[1]

The British allowed the Dangs Chiefs to administer justice in petty civil and criminal cases by virtue of their hereditary position and without investing them with powers under the British laws.

The traditional administration of civil and criminal justice was in the hands of the Dangs Chiefs. But after the execution of the forest leases in 1842, the British acquired in the Dangs the powers and right of administering or superintending the administration of justice. This became possible by the acquiescence of the Dangs Chiefs. In exercising these powers, the British Government could make it a punishable offence for the people to cut any portion of the demarcated forests or to cultivate or touch any trees beyond certain limits. Since this time, the administration of the Dangs was controlled by the Resident at Baroda. To enforce jurisdiction, the British Government created a post of Divisional Forest Officer, Surat and invested him with the magisterial powers of an Assistant Political Agent, Dangs. The Collector, Surat, continued to act as Political Agent for the Dangs.

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1. *Selections from the Records of the Bombay Government*, No. XXVI, New Series, (1856), pp. 185-86.

Under the Divisional Forest Officer, there was the Dangs Diwan who exercised magisterial powers. The former Gazetteer on Khandesh makes the following observations. "The Assistant Political Agent had the judicial powers of an Assistant Sessions Judge, all appeals from his decisions lying to the Agent's Court. The Dangs Dewan who was in charge of the Mehvas States, inquires into all reported cases of theft and other petty offences, and his proceedings were submitted to the Political Agent or his Assistant. The chiefs settle petty cases, each in his own estate, punishing by fine and whipping."[1] Subsequently, the Dangs district was placed under the administration of the Collector, Surat, upto October. 1943. In November 1943, the Civil Administrator, Dangs, was appointed to work as Additional Magistrate. The Dangs Diwan worked under him and exercised Judicial Magistrate's powers. The functioning of the judiciary in the Dangs on the eve of Independence was as under.

"The Dangs is treated for legislative purposes as an Administered Area comparable to the Administered Areas in e. g., the Hyderabad State, Bangalore Civil Station and various Railway lands in Indian States; and the Courts function by virtue of Notification No. 5, dated 1st February 1946 issued under the Foreign Jurisdiction (India) Order in Council.

"The criminal courts in the Dangs consist of the following:

"The court of the Judicial Commissioner, Baroda, Western India and Gujarat States Residency. (functioning as the High Court).

The court of the Sessions Judge, who is the Political Agent, Gujarat States Agency.

The court of the Additional Sessions Judge, who is the Sessions Judge, Baroda, Western India and Gujarat States Residency.

The court of the District Magistrate, who is the Political Agent, Gujarat States Agency.

The court of the Additional District Magistrate (and Magistrate of the First Class) who is the Civil Administrator.

The court of the Second Class Magistrate (the Dangs Dewan)".

The criminal work is quite nominal, except for an occasional murder case, the Dangis being exceptionally law-abiding and free from litigious

1 CAMPBELL J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency, Khandesh*, Vol. XII, (1880), p. 607.

habits. Civil litigation is even lighter than criminal, the courts for this purpose were as follows :

(1) the court of the Judicial Commissioner, Baroda, Western India and Gujarat States Agency (functioning as the High Court),

(2) the court of the District Judge, who is the Political Agent, Gujarat States Agency,

(3) the court of the Additional District Judge, who is the District Judge, Baroda, Western India and Gujarat States Residency,

(4) the court of the Sub-Judge, Civil Administrator with original jurisdiction in suits of unlimited amount, and

(5) the court of the Small Cause, the Dangs Dewan with jurisdiction in suits of which the value does not exceed Rs. 500.[1]

In the year 1948, the Dangs area was excluded from the Baroda Residency and was converted into a district and was placed under a separate Collector.

The Dangs being a forest area, the Conservator of Forests of the Dangs district was appointed the Chief Executive Officer and exercised magisterial powers of the District Magistrate but had no powers of civil nature. These civil powers were exercised by the Civil Judge, Bulsar upto 1953. In 1953, the District Judge, Surat added Ahwa as a place of his sitting for hearing criminal cases.[2] This action of the District Judge, Surat was confirmed by the High Court at Bombay retrospectively. The criminal powers were till then exercised by the Collector, Dangs, as the District Magistrate. Thus, criminal justice was dispensed by purely judicial machinery in accordance with the judicial reforms of Government separating the judiciary from the executive under the Bombay Separation of Judicial and Executive Functions Act, 1951. But the work of administering civil justice remained with the Civil Judge, Bulsar. Realising the difficulties of the Dangis, the Government decided to open a Civil Court at Ahwa in May, 1954.[3] The Civil Judge, Junior Division and Judicial Magistrate, First Class, Bansda, was given powers of the Civil Judge, Ahwa, in October, 1954.[4] He still exercises both the civil and criminal powers for the Dangs district.

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1. *Annual Administration Report for Dangs* for 1944-46, pp. 15-16 and *Baroda, Western India and Gujarat States Agency, Civil List*, 1947, pp. 95-96.

2. District Judge, Surat's Order No. 1685/7-2, dated 15th July, 1953.

3. Home Department Notification No. 1685/7-74661 (iii), dated 15th May, 1954.

4. Notification No. 1685/7-74661 (iii), dated 19th October, 1954.

PRESENT SET-UP

(1) *Civil Courts*

Prior to 1951, the District Magistrate, Dangs was exercising criminal powers as First Class Magistrate and the Sessions Court at Surat was the appellate court for the Dangs district and the District and Sessions Judge, Surat was designated the District and Sessions Judge, Surat and Dangs districts. This contiuued upto 1st June, 1964, i. e., upto bifurcation of the Surat district and creation of the new Bulsar district. Thereafter, the civil and criminal appellate jurisdiction is exercised by the District and Sessions Judge, Bulsar, headquartered at Navsari.

The Sessions Judge tries criminal cases which are committed to his court by the Judicial Magistrate after preliminary inquiry and hears appeals against the decisions of the subordinate magistrate. He is also the Special Judge of the district and tries all cases under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1947.

Before Independence, both Bansda and Dharampur were native States and were integrated with the province of Bombay by about June 1948 and the post of the Civil Judge. Junior Division and Judicial Magistrate, First Class was created for these places in 1951. He used to hold his court both at Dharampur and Bansda for civil as well as criminal work.

The whole area of the Dangs district which was under the Civil Judge, Bulsar, was placed under the jurisdiction of the Civil Court, Bansda. Thus the Judge continues to exercise both the civil and criminal jurisdiction from 1st November, 1954 onwards.

New *pucca* court building was constructed at Ahwa in the year 1957 and the Bansda Civil Judge. Junior Division and Judicial Magistrate, First Class, is holding court at Ahwa from 1st Monday for four days in a month. There is no full-fledged court at Ahwa. Only one watch-man is kept for the court at Ahwa.

(2) *Criminal Courts*

Before the bifurcation of the Bombay State in 1960, the District and Sessions Judge, Surat, exercised the appellate civil and criminal jurisdiction over the Dangs district. This jurisdiction was continued even after the bifurcation of the State. After the bifurcation of the Surat district into two districts, i. e., Surat and Bulsar districts with effect from 1st June, 1964, the Dangs district was placed under jurisdiction of the District and Sessions Judge, Bulsar, headquartered at Navsari. Since then, he exercises the appellate

jurisdiction in civil work as District Judge, Dangs and the criminal appellate jurisdiction as Sessions Judge, Dangs for criminal proceedings.

There is only one Civil-*cum*-Criminal Court at Ahwa, for the whole of the Dangs district and the Civil Judge, Junior Division and Judicial Magistrate, First Class, Bansda exercises original civil as well as criminal jurisdiction over the entire district. The Ahwa Court is a Link Court with Bansda and the Civil Judge, Bansda holds his sittings at Ahwa for 4 days from 1st Monday of every month and attends to the Civil and Criminal work of the entire Dangs district. There is no other judicial separate or Link Court for the Dangs district.

Law Officers—As this is not a criminal district, the offences are only few and far between. The need for a District Government Pleader and a Public Prosecutor at Ahwa is, therefore, not felt. There is one Sub-Government Pleader for Bansda-Dharampur and Ahwa, who is working on behalf of Government in civil matters. For criminal work, there is one Police Prosecutor who is attending three Courts at Bansda, Chikhli and Ahwa.

Statistics of the Civil Court

The following statement shows the number of civil cases classified according to (i) the nature of suits and (ii) the amounts involved during the year 1969.

STATEMENT XII·1

(A) Civil Cases Classified according to the Nature of Suits, 1969

Sl. No.	Particulars	No. of Cases
1	Cases pending at the end of the year 1968	6
2	New cases instituted during the year 1969	4
3	Cases relating to :	
	(a) Money and movable property	2
	(b) Immovable property	2
	(c) Specific relief	..
	(d) Mortgage	..
	(e) Others	..
4	Cases revived and received otherwise	23
5	No. of suits disposed of during the year	30
6	Cases pending at the end of the year 1969	3

(B) Civil Cases Classified according to the Amounts Involved, 1969

Sl. No.	Amounts				No. of cases
1	Over Rs. 10 but not exceeding Rs. 50	..	..	..	..
2	Over Rs. 50 but not exceeding Rs. 100	..	..	..	12
3	Over Rs. 100 but not exceeding Rs. 500	..	..	..	13
4	Over Rs. 500 but not exceeding Rs. 1,000	..	..	..	4
5	Over Rs. 1,000 but not exceeding Rs. 5,000	..	..	..	3
6	Over Rs. 5,000 but not exceeding Rs. 10,000		..	..	1
7	Over Rs. 10,000		..	..	..
8	Cases the monetary value of which could not be estimated			..	..
	Total		..	..	**33**

The statement confirms the general view that the Dangs is a non-criminal district, as only 4 new offences were instituted during the year 1969. Of the total number of civil cases numbering 33 tried in the civil court, 4 related to money and movable and immovable properties. Those revived and received otherwise numbered 23. Further, as many as 30 suits were disposed of during the year 1969. Only 3 cases were pending at the end of 1969. Of total number of cases, those not exceeding Rs. 5,000 in value numbered 32.

Criminal Cases

In the year 1961, in the Criminal Court at Ahwa, 225 offences were reported. The number of persons under trial was 243. Of these, the number of persons whose cases were disposed of was 197. Out of these, 38 persons were either acquitted or discharged, 157 persons were convicted and 2 persons were committed to the Court of Sessions

In the year 1969, 130 cases were reported and persons under trial numbered 180. Out of these, the number of persons whose cases were disposed of was 168. Out of these, 98 persons were convicted and 2 persons were committed to the Court of Sessions.

In the Sessions Court, 2 cases were reported during 1969 and two persons were under trial. Out of them, one case was finally disposed of in which the accused was convicted. None of them was awarded death sentence or sentence of imprisonment for life. One case was pending.

Bar Association

There is no registered Bar Association at Ahwa. There is only one local pleader at Ahwa. Other lawyers are coming from outside the district.

CHAPTER XIII

OTHER DEPARTMENTS

Agriculture Department

The District Agricultural Officer is in charge of agricultural activities in the district. He is under the administrative control of the Director of Agriculture, Gujarat State, Ahmedabad. In respect of technical supervision and control, he is directly responsible to the Superintending Agricultural Officer, Baroda. He is assisted by one Agricultural Officer who looks after the progress of different agricultural activities in the district and the routine office work. He is further assisted by four Agricultural Assistants in regard to schemes relating to seed supply, compost development, fertilizer distribution, etc. Besides, there is one Agricultural Supervisor who looks after plant protection scheme.

The District Agricultural Officer is responsible for carrying out agricultural extension activities through the field staff mentioned above. He propagates improved methods of agriculture among the farmers by group-contact, discussion, meetings and seminars.

The District Agricultural Officer, Dangs holds the additional charge of the Sub-Divisional Soil Conservation Officer and looks after soil conservation schemes in operation in the district. In that capacity, he is under the administrative control of the Director of Agriculture and under the technical control of the Divisional Soil Conservation Officer, Surat. He looks after the following activities of agriculture and soil conservation :

(i) reclamation of Government waste land at Government cost and preparation of *kyari* lands in the Dangs district,

(ii) extension training scheme,

(iii) agriculture information unit,

(iv) subsidized distribution of plant protection appliances,

(v) subsidized distribution of insecticides, pesticides and fungicides,

(vi) distribution of improved seeds of vegetable and foodgrains to Dangis at subsidized rate,

(vii) grant of loan and subsidy for *kutcha* wells and for purchase of *rahats*,

(viii) crop competitions,

(ix) agricultural propaganda, seed multiplication farm and nursery-*cum*-demonstration farm, and

(x) any other special scheme introduced by the Government.

Animal Husbandry Department

The Directorate of Animal Husbandry deals with scientific research in the problems of breeding, feeding and management of all classes of livestock and extension and application of results of such research work in the district. The activities, in general, cover the treatment and control of diseases of animals, veterinary education, artificial insemination and providing services in the shape of expert advice and technical guidance to the Dangis in the field of animal husbandry. The administrative set-up at the district level consists of one District Animal Husbandry Officer assisted by one Agricultural Officer, (Cattle Breeding), one Senior Clerk and one Junior Clerk. In addition, there is one Veterinary Officer who looks after Veterinary Dispensary at Ahwa and eight Stockmen in charge of First-Aid Veterinary Centres at Waghai, Kalibel, Pipaldahad, Pipalaidevi, Chinchli, Galkund, Shamgahan and Sakarpatal. The Poultry Development Scheme which is in operation in the district is looked after by three Stockmen. The Poultry Farm at Ahwa is in charge of a Superintendent. The District Animal Husbandry Officer is responsible technically as well as administratively to the Director of Animal Husbandry, Gujarat State, Ahmedabad.

Forest Department

The Forest Department is headed by the Chief Conservator of Forests. His headquarters are at Baroda. He is assisted by three Conservators of Forests placed in charge of the Forest Circles viz., Junagadh, Baroda and Surat. The Dangs district falls under the Surat Forest Circle.

Normally there is one Divisional Forest Officer for each district. But in the case of the Dangs district, there are two Divisional Forest Officers placed in charge of two Forest Divisions of the district. One Divisional Forest Officer is charged with territorial and executive functions over the entire Dangs district and the Additional Divisional Forest Officer is responsible for executing and supervising the departmental working of forest coupes and disposal of material. The first may be called the normal Dangs Division for general administration and the other additional Division for departmental working of coupes. The normal Dangs Division is placed under the Divisional Forest Officer (Class I). He is in overall charge of the execution of all silvicultural works, supervision of coupes worked by the Forest Labourers' Co-operative Societies and raising of plantations and other day-to-day works.

Before bifurcation of the Bombay State, there was only one Divisional Forest Officer in charge of the entire district. Then the coupes were worked partly through the agency of contractors and partly through the Forest Labourers' Co-operative Societies on a logging basis. In 1960, the method of working through the departmental agency in lieu of the logging societies was adopted by the Government. In order to supervise and direct the departmental working of the forest coupes, one additional post of a Divisional Forest Officer was created in 1960.

At present, there are 8 territorial forest ranges under the normal Divisional Forest Officer, Dangs, namely, Waghai, Pimpri, Ahwa, Shamgahan, Subir, Pipalaidevi, Bardipada and Bheskatri. These forest ranges have been placed in charge of Range Forest Officers. Besides, one Range Forest Officer called Superintendent is placed in charge of the industrial unit at Waghai. The Superintendent looks after the working of the saw mills, a seasoning kiln and a treatment plant at Waghai. Further, one Range Forest Officer is placed in charge of the mobile squad unit. Thus, there are 10 Range Forest Officers under the normal Divisional Forest Officer, Dangs.

There is one Sub-Divisional Forest Officer to assist the Divisional Foerst Officer in forest administration. In addition to this, there is one special Sub-Divisional Forest Officer placed in charge of the botanical garden at Waghai.

As stated before, the Additional Divisional Forest Officer is mainly charged with the departmental working of the forest coupes. The number of Range Forest Officers under the Additional Divisional Forest Officer is not fixed but varies according to the number of forest coupes taken up for departmental working every year. In the year 1964-65, there were 6 Range Forest Officers, each one looking after 5 to 6 coupes under departmental working. Every coupe is placed in charge of one Logging Forester, who is assisted by the staff consisting of Beat Guards and *mukadams*. Under this Additional Divisional Forest Officer, there are 8 Range Forest Officers, 41 Round Foresters and 93 Beat Guards and Depot Guards.

The main functions of the Forest Department are :

(1) protection, conservation and development of forests, prevention of soil erosion and increasing of soil fertility.

(2) exploitation and utilisation of the forests so as to obtain the maximum yield. (This implies framing of working plans for the scientific management of forests.) and

(3) the conduct of research into silviculture, utilisation and other problems affecting the regeneration and development of forests. The State

Government has, however, laid special stress on conservation and afforestation schemes. The State is most reluctant in considering proposals for deforestation of the forest area for purposes of cultivation. It has undertaken further schemes for afforestation of arid and blank areas, soil conservation, rehabilitation of pasture lands, preservation of wild life, etc.

Administration and Managment of Wild Life

The administration and management of wild life in the State rest almost entirely with the Forest Department. The Chief Conservator of Forests, who is the head of the Department, is also the Wild Life Preservation Officer, while the Divisional and Range Forest Officers also function as *ex-officio* Wild Life Wardens and Assistant Wild Life Wardens, respectively within their jurisdictions. Some members of the public interested in wild life conservation have been appointed as non-official Wild Life Wardens for their respective districts.

In the past, hunting was controlled and regulated under the provisions of the Indian Forest Act, 1927. It was applicable to the Government forest only and was, therefore, ineffective for dealing with wild life offences committed in non-forest areas and lands of private ownership. It was the erstwhile State of Bombay which gave a pioneering lead to the rest of the country by enacting an exemplary piece of legislation known as the Bombay Wild Animals and Wild Birds Protection Act, 1951, which was extended to forest as well as non-forest areas. After the formation of the Gujarat State, this Act was suitably amended and enforced as the Gujarat Wild Animals and Wild Birds Protection Act, 1963. The salient features of this new Act are as follows :

(1) The Act classifies the wild life of the State into different categories, viz., small game, big game and special big game, for each of which a separate kind of game licence has been prescribed. These game licences, which are valid for the entire State of Gujarat, can be obtained from the Wild Life Preservation Officer or from the Wild Life Wardens on payment of monthly or annual fees at the following rates :

	Monthly fees	Annual fees
	Rs.	Rs.
Small Game Licence..	10	20
Big Game Licence ..	30	60
Special Big Game Licence	Not being issued at present	

The species permitted to be shot on these game licences and the bag limits prescribed are as under:

Small Game Licence	One bluebull, one wild boar, one hyaena, one wolf, hares and feathered game (no limit).

(The close season for small game extends from 1st April to 30th September).

Big Game Licence	One panther and one sloth bear (There is no close season for big game).

Certain harmful species have been declared as vermin and no game licence is required for shooting the same. However, a free permit from the Divisional Forest Officer is required to be obtained for shooting vermin. The following animals, birds and reptiles are completely protected :

(i) Lion
(ii) Wild Ass
(iii) Hunting Cheetah
(iv) Tiger
(v) Sambhar
(vi) Cheetal
(vii) Barking Deer
(viii) Black Buck
(ix) Chinkara
(x) Four-horned Antelope
(xi) Rusty spotted Cat
(xii) Pigmy Hog
(xiii) Great Indian Bustard
(xiv) Flamingo
(xv) Pea Fowl
(xvi) Pink-headed Duck
(xvii) White-winged Wood Duck
(xviii) Crocodile

There is no system of shooting-blocks in this State. Besides the above game licences, licences are also issued for trapping and possessing pet animals and birds and for dealing in trophies.

(2) It prohibits unsporting methods of hunting.

(3) It provides for the destruction of dangerous animals which have become a menace to human life or property.

(4) It provides for the compounding of offences against wild life out of court, failing which the offender can be prosecuted and punished on conviction.

(5) It provides for the setting up of a State Wild Life Advisory Board comprising officials and non-officials to advise the State Government on

matters and problems pertaining to wild life. This Board works in close liaison with the Indian Board for Wild Life.

(6) Lastly, it provides for the establishment of wild life sanctuaries.

In the district, the 'Purna Wild Life Sanctuary' of about 200 sq. kms. in the Northern Dangs has been set up.[1]

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

The Public Works Department is one of the important departments of Government as various developmental works are executed through it. Under the Five Year Plans, it undertakes construction and maintenance of major irrigation works, bridges and roads inclusive of those of strategic importance to the country.

The Public Works Department deals with (1) roads and buildings, (2) irrigation, (3) electricity and (4) ports. These branches function independently of each other. The first two branches work under a separate Superintending Engineer, while the work relating to electricity is placed under the charge of the Electrical Engineer to the Government and the ports organisation is headed by the Director of Ports, with headquarters at Ahmedabad.

As the Dangs district is land-locked, it may obviously have no ports. There are no irrigation schemes because of the hilly terrain and dense forests. These two wings of the Public Works Department have no role to play in the Dangs district. Another striking feature about the set-up of the Public Works Department is that as the Panchayati Raj has not been introduced in the district, there is no devolution of powers and functions of any of the wings of the Public Works Department. In view of the tribal population, the development schemes are placed under the direct supervision and control of the Government at the State level.

Roads and Buildings

There is no separate division for Roads and Buildings in the district but it is placed under the charge of the Executive Engineer, Roads and Buildings, Navsari Division, who in turn functions under the guidance of the Superintending Engineer, Roads and Buildings Circle, Baroda. There is only a sub-divisional office in the district in charge of a Deputy Engineer, who is under the administrative and technical superintendence of the Executvie Engineer, Roads and Building Division, Navsari. The sub-divisional office at Ahwa carries out the original construction as well as repair works of roads, Government buildings and bridges in the district undertaken either departmentally or through contractors. After the introduction of the

1. For details about wild life sanctuary in the Dangs district, refer to Chapter I-General, p 34.

Panchayati Raj in the State, roads below the category of State Highways have been transferred to the Panchayats. But the Panchayati Raj has not been introduced in the Dangs and hence the transfer of certain categories of roads from the Public Works Department to the Panchayats has not been made. The Deputy Engineer, Roads and Buildings, Ahwa, is in charge of State Highways, Major District Roads and Other District Roads. There are no National Highways passing through the Dangs. In the district, the Public Works Department maintained a total length of 397·22 kms. of roads till March, 1970. Of these, 315·63 kms. had a tar and water-bound-macadam surface and the remaining unmetalled surface.

The Village Roads and the Forest Roads in the Dangs district are maintained by the District Local Board, Ahwa and the Forest Department respectively. Their total length as on 31st March, 1970 was 584·20 kms.

Electrical Circle

For carrying out administrative, advisory and executive duties pertaining to the generation and use of electricity in the State, there is an Electrical Wing in the Public Works Department headed by the Chief Electrical Engineer to the Government, headquartered at Gandhinagar. There are four Electrical Divisions in the State, each under an Executive Engineer with headquarters at Ahmedabad, Baroda, Rajkot and Gandhinagar. The Dangs district is placed under the Electrical Division, Baroda. The Deputy Engineer, Electrical Sub-division, Surat, who works under the control and guidance of the Executive Engineer, Electrical Division, Baroda, arranges for the electrical installations and their maintenance in the Government buildings in the Dangs. The Inspection wing is working under the Industries, Mines and Power Department. The Assistant Electrical Inspector at Surat performs the duties under the Indian Electricity Act, 1910 and carries out inspection of M. P. (medium pressure) and H. T. (high tension) electrical installations, power houses, mills, etc., in the Dangs with the help of staff working at Surat. Till 1969, nine villages were electrified in the district.

Co-operative Department

The Co-operative Department is headed by the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, who is headquartered at Ahmedabad. This department works under the Agriculture, Forest and Co-operation Department at the State level. Besides, he (the Registrar) also functions as the Registrar General of Money-lenders, the Director of Cottage Industries and the Director of Agricultural Marketing. He is assisted by Deputy and Assistant Registrars working at the headquarters. As the Registrar General of Money-lenders, he enforces the Bombay Money-lenders Act, 1946, which provides for the regulation and control of the transactions of money-lenders. In his capacity as the Director of Agricultural Marketing, he enforces the Gujarat Agricul-

tural Produce Markets Act, 1963 and performs the functions of organisation and constitution of regulated markets, assessment of licence fees and rates of commission and gives technical guidance as regards the manner in which the accounts of the market committees are to be maintained.

As the Director of Cottage Industries and Industrial Co-operatives, he is assisted at the headquarters by (1) a Deputy Registrar, (2) a Deputy Development Officer for Handicrafts, (3) an Engineer for Cottage Industries, (4) a Textile Expert, (5) an Assistant Director for Industrial Co-operatives and Village Industries (Khadi and Village Industries), and (6) Textile Officer, (The post of Technical Expert for leather industries is held in abeyance in the department as an economy measure).

Before the reorganisation of the Co-operative Department in 1968, there were three Divisional Deputy Registrars with headquarters at Ahmedabad, Baroda and Rajkot and District Registrars in each of the districts in the State. The Dangs district was placed under the Deputy Registrar, Baroda Division, who had jurisdiction over the districts of Baroda, Broach, Panchmahals, Surat, Bulsar and Dangs. At the district level, the District Registrars carried out the functions of all the four wings of the Co-operative Department, viz., (i) co-operation, (ii) industrial co-operatives, (iii) agricultural marketing, and (iv) money-lending.

The Gujarat Panchayats Act, 1961 has been applied to all the districts of Gujarat except the Dangs district. Under this Act, certain powers and functions of co-operative sector were transferred to the panchayats. One Assistant District Registrar is deputed to each District panchayat to deal with subjects transferred to the panchayats. Since this Act has not been applied to the Dangs district need was not felt to make such transfer of powers and functions to the Dangs district.

After the reorganisation of the department in 1968, the offices of the three Divisional Deputy Registrars with headquarters at Ahmedabad, Baroda and Rajkot were abolished and the powers exercised and duties performed by them have been readjusted between the offices of the Registrar of Co-operative Societies at the State level and the District Registrars at district level.

According to the revised set-up, the Co-operative Department is divided in four sections, viz., (i) co-operation and marketing, (ii) industrial co-operatives and cottage industries, (iii) money-lending, and (iv) audit.

Co-operation and Marketing

According to the revised set-up, the District Registrar, Class I with headquarters at Surat, deals with Co-operation and Marketing sections and

exercises jurisdiction over the districts of Surat, Bulsar and Dangs. He is assisted by one Office Superintendent, one Head Clerk, Accountant, two Co-operative Officers, five Assistant Co-operative Officers and other staff at the headquarters. The District Registrar also functions as Deputy Director of Agricultural Marketing and Rural Finance. He exercises powers in respect of all types of societies including federal societies having jurisdiction beyond the district as also in respect of subjects not transferred to the panchayats. He entertains proposals for the establishment of regulated markets and declaration of market yards.

The District Registrar, Surat, is assisted by two Assistant District Registrars, Class II, with headquarters respectively at Bulsar and Dangs. Of these, the post of Assistant District Registrar for the Dangs district has recently been specially created by the Government. He will be assisted by one Co-operative Officer and other staff working at the district headquarters, Ahwa. The Assistant District Registrar, Dangs exercises general supervision over all the four different sections of the Co-operative Department. He also exercises all the powers of the District Registrar in respect of marketing and co-operative.

Money-lending

The District Registrar of Money-lenders, Class I, with headquarters at Baroda exercises jurisdiction over the Baroda, Broach, Surat, Bulsar and Dangs districts. An Assistant District Registrar of Money-lenders with headquarters at Surat is in charge of the Dangs district. For protecting poor Adivasis from the exploitation of money-lenders and Sahukars, Government has made a special arrangement in the notified scheduled areas by appointing Co-operative Officers for money-lending in these areas. Accordingly, a Co-operative Officer for the Dangs has been appointed in the district to prevent the malpractices of money-lenders.

The District Registrar of Money-lenders is responsible for the proper implementation of the Bombay Money-lenders Act, 1946 in the districts under his charge and is empowered to grant or refuse licences for money-lending. In cases of breach of law, he is authorised to compound the offences under section 35 (c) of the Act. It is also his duty to take final decisions in cases of illicit money-lending detected by the subordinate officer. The Assistant Registrar conducts inquiries into applications for licences for money-lending and forwards them with his report to the District Registrar of Money-lenders who may decide them on merits. The Co-operative Officer attached to him detects the cases of illicit money-lending which the Assistant District Registrar forwards to the District Registrar for final disposal.

Cottage Industries

For dealing with this work, the Dangs district is placed under the District Registrar, Industrial Co-operatives, Class I, who has his headquarters at Surat and is in charge of the Surat, Broach, Baroda, Bulsar and Dangs districts. The work relating to the industrial co-operatives and cottage industries in the district is placed under a Senior Supervisor (Handlooms) who works under the guidance of the Co-operative Officer (Industries), Bulsar and the District Registrar (Industries), Surat.

Audit

Section 84 of the Gujarat Co-operative Societies Act, 1961 provides for statutory audit of every society once a year by the Registrar or persons so authorised by him. This duty is being carried out by him through the departmental as well as certified Auditors.

The chart of the administrative set-up is given below :

Set-up of Co-operative Department, Dangs District

Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Gujarat State, Ahmedabad

1	2	3	4
Co-operation and Marketing ..	Industrial Co-operatives and Cottage Industries	Money-lending	Audit
District Registrar, Surat (in charge of Surat, Bulsar and Dangs)	District Registrar, (Industries), Surat (in charge of Broach, Baroda, Surat. Bulsar and Dangs)	District Registrar, (Money-lenders), Baroda (in charge of Baroda, Broach, Surat, Bulsar and Dangs)	Special Auditor, Baroda (in charge of districts of Baroda, Broach, Surat, Bulsar and Dangs)
Assistant District Registrar, Ahwa, assisted by Co-operative Officer and other staff at Ahwa	Co-operative Officer, Bulsar (in charge of Dangs)	Assistant District Registrar, Surat (Money-lenders) (in charge of Dangs)	He is assisted by Auditor and Sub-Auditors posted at the head-quarters of the Special Auditor, Baroda
	Senior Supervisor (Handlooms), Ahwa	Co-operative Officer, Ahwa, (Money-lenders)	

Department of Industries

The main activities of the Department of Industries relate to the establishment of large and medium scale industries, assistance to small scale and cottage industries, establishment of industrial estates, stores purchase organisation, enforcement of the Weights and Measures Act, control of raw materials for industries, issue of essentiality certificates, export promotion, etc. Thus, the activities under the department relate to (i) large and medium industries, (2) small scale and cottage industries, (3) stores-purchase, (4) raw materials, and (5) weights and measures.

The department is headed by the Commissioner of Industries, who is headquartered at Ahmedabad. He works in several capacities such as the Controller of Weights and Measures, Controller of Coal and Coke and Controller of Molasses. Besides, he is instrumental in implementing the industrial policy of the State Government. Under him there is one Deputy Director of Industries (Metric) at Ahmedabad, who is in charge of the metric branch and is responsible for the enforcement of the Weights and Measures Act in the whole State. At the regional level, there are 3 more Deputy Directors of Industries, one each for Baroda, Rajkot and Ahmedabad regions and one Assistant Director of Industries for the Surat region. Besides, looking after industrial development, they act as Deputy Controllers of Weights and Measures and Assistant Controller of Weights and Measures respectively in their respective regions. The Assistant Director plays an important role in the construction and development of organised small scale and large scale industries and executes industrial policy under the directions of the Commissioner of Industries.

The Dangs district falls under the Surat region and is placed in charge of Industries Officer, Bulsar, who is assisted by the Industries Inspector posted at Bilimora. The Industries Officer is in charge of industrial development activities of the district. Thus, there is no functionary of the department posted within the district.

The Industries Officer is charged with a number of functions which are more or less analogous to those assigned to the Assistant or Deputy Director at the regional level. The most important function assigned to the Industries Officer is to look after the promotional aspect of industrial development in the district. To this end, he has to render all possible help to the parties approaching him for advice regarding the industrial potentialities such as infra-structure facilities like water, power, land, communications, etc. He has to assist them in getting required raw materials, loans and machinery on hire-purchase system. Other functions besides these relate to the proper enforcement of the Bombay Weights and Measures (Enforcement) Act, 1958 and Rules made thereunder. In this work, he is assisted by Industries Inspector, who is required to visit centres allotted to him. In addition to the work of weights and measures, this Inspector assists the

Industries Officer in investigation of applications for import of scarce and controlled raw materials, power subsidy, registration of small scale industries. telephone priority, collection of industrial statistics and information relating to industrial activities in the district. After investigation, the Inspector submits his reports to the Industries Officer, who after ascertaining their genuineness, forwards them to the Assistant Director, Surat with his recommendations. The Assistant Director thereafter issues necessary permits or essentiality certificates on merit. Similar procedure is followed in respect of applications for loans under the State Aid to Small Scale and Cottage Industries Rules, 1935 or under the schemes operated by the State Bank of India or the Gujarat State Financial Corporation or for the hire-purchase of machinery.

One application was received for raw material from a soap manufacturer in the Dangs district. Applications are not received from units in the district so far as the provisions of the Gujarat State Subsidy to Electric Power Consumption (Cottage and Small Scale) Rules, 1965 are concerned.

Further, the Industries Officer, under rehabilitation scheme, grants the loans to goldsmiths as well as to the Burmese and the Portuguese repatriates, to the extent of Rs. 2,000 per applicant. But as there were no such repatriates the Industries Officer, Bulsar has not received any applications for such loans from the district.

The Dangs district is completely industrially backward and only one saw mills is working at Waghai so far. With a view to quickening the tempo of development of industries in the district and to achieve more effective co-ordination in providing infra-structure facilities to industries, the Collector of the district has been designated as *ex-officio* Deputy Commissioner of Industries since October, 1967. The functions and powers assigned to him are :

(a) allotment of factory sheds and plots in the Government industrial estates,

(b) holding of seminars connected with industries,

(c) formulation of District Master Plans and publishing them,

(d) co-ordination of activities of various heads of offices/departments with regard to infra-structure facilities,

(e) correspondence with all authorities in or outside the State directly with regard to the difficulties of industries in the district,

(f) supervision over the information centres functioning in the district.

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT INFORMATION OFFICER, DANGS, AHWA

The important function of Government in a democracy is to keep the people informed of the work of Government in various spheres of development and administration in order to enable them to take advantage of the welfare schemes of Government. For this purpose, at the State level, a Directorate of Information has been established with a Director of Information as its head. At the district level, one District Information Officer is posted. He is in charge of all duties pertaining to information, publicity, mass communication and public relations in the district.

The office of the District Information Officer is stationed at Ahwa. He discharges the two-way function of keeping the people informed of the work of the Government and the Government informed of the public opinion and the needs and grievances of the people. The District Information Officer acts as a liaison officer between the Government offices of various departments and the press. He collects and makes available information regarding the various developmental activities carried out by the Government in the district and the State. Through the different media of mass communications like press notes, films, distribution of literature, exhibitions, cultural programmes and talks, the District Information Officer keeps the people informed about the activities of the Government. This is achieved by issuing press notes, organising film shows, *harikathas*, dramas, exhibitions, tours of journalists, distribution of literature like handouts, posters, booklets, leaflets, etc., bearing on the Five Year Plans and other Government publications and topics of public interest. As and when required, he holds press conferences on behalf of other departments of Government to provide an opportunity to the press, to get first hand knowledge of the subject to be covered. Besides, he helps tourists and others visiting the district and feeds them with necessary information. He keeps the authorities at the district level and the Government departments at the State level through the Director of Information, well-posted with the important events by periodical reports. He issues regular press notes and handouts giving factual information about important schemes and activities of Government and corrects, in consultation with the department concerned. incorrect newspaper reports.

As in every other district, a mobile publicity van is placed at his disposal. The van is equipped with 16 mm. film projector, generator and record player for field publicity. It is taken round the district and film shows and instructive and entertaining talks are arranged on various development programmes such as agriculture, animal husbandry, health, prohibition, untouchability, small savings, education, defence and Five Year Plans. He thereby keeps the rural folk informed of the concessions and facilities offered to them by the State and Central Governments. The films produced by the Directorate of Information include both the documentaries and newsreels.

An Information Centre is attached to the office of the District Information Officer at Ahwa which supplies information pertaining to development programmes to the people at large. The centre maintains a reading room where books, periodicals, charts, etc., bearing on the Five Year Plans and their progress are displayed. It serves as a useful centre of information for the town of Ahwa in particular and the district of Dangs in general.

Rural Broadcasting

To provide information with entertainment to the rural population, the Directorate of Information has undertaken a scheme of Rural Broadcasting which envisages the installation of radio-receiving sets.

As Panchayati Raj is not introduced in the district, it is not possible to get a radio set installed out of the funds of panchayats. Similarly, the Adivasi population on account of dire poverty is not in a position to collect funds for the purpose of installation of a radio set. The District Development Board, however, provides for the installation of a radio set in a village out of residual contigency grants which it saves annually. Till March, 1970, 82 radio sets have been installed in the district. Further sanction of 20 radio sets has also been obtained from the Government. In the selection of villages for the installation of radio sets, Government accords priority to those villages which display interest in development—oriented activities carried on by Government. The Supervisor at Ahwa is in charge of maintenance and repair work of radio sets.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION, SAPUTARA

The office of the Assistant Director of Information, Saputara was opened on 21st March, 1966. It is under the Director of Information and Tourism, Gujarat State, Gandhinagar It makes arrangements for tourists visiting the Saputara Hill Station. The Government buildings such as holiday homes, dormitories, canteen, circuit house, reading room, etc., at Saputara are in charge of the Assistant Director of Information. Reservations for accommodation are made by this office and all the facilities are provided to the tourists. The Assistant Director has to supervise and co-ordinate the activities of all other departments operating at Saputara.

The Assistant Director of Information is assisted by a receptionist, a junior store keeper and a clerk.

DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT BOARD, DANGS

After the merger of the Dangs district in the Bombay State in 1947, its development engaged the attention of the Government of Bombay. Conse-

quently, the District Rural Development Board, Dangs was constituted. The designation of the Board, however, was changed to that of District Development Board, Dangs on 31st January, 1950 by the ex-Government of Bombay in Agriculture and Forest Department.[1]

The District Development Board consisted of 10 official members and 6 non-official members. The Collector, Dangs acted as *ex-officio* Chairman while the District Agricultural Officer worked as Secretary. The term of the Board was initially upto 31st March, 1951 and was subsequently extended from time to time. The Board was entrusted with the task of carrying out all activities pertaining to rural development in the district. Moreover, it was also to carry out all ameliorative measures and perform all duties which are normally entrusted to District Local Board, Municipalities and Panchayats in the district. The Government was also pleased to direct that the Dangs Development Board should exercise all powers and functions of the District Local Board and that its jurisdiction was to cover the entire area of the district.

In view of the poverty and backwardness of the people and lack of ordinary facilities in the district, it was felt essential to co-ordinate the activities of the various departments. The Government of Bombay, therefore, directed all the head offices stationed in the Dangs district to work in close co-operation with the Collector and were to be administratively under him.

After the formation of the Gujarat State, the Board was reconstituted by the Rural Development Department.[2] According to the Resolution, the Board consisted of 19 official members. All members of the Parliament and Legislative Assembly residing within the district and/or in which their constituency or a part thereof which was included were to be *ex-officio* members. Besides official members, the Board consisted of nominated members, social workers, others, etc. The nominated members and social workers numbered 24 in all, while 'others' comprised 6 members in all. The term of the office of the Board was upto 31st March, 1961. The Collector, Dangs acted as Chairman of the Board. The Collector and Chairman of the Board was to take necessary steps to reconstitute all the sub-committees of the Board after taking into consideration changes made, if any.

The Board consists of 31 members with Collector acting as President. Out of 31 members, 13 are officials and 18 non-officials. The Board has in all 7 sub-committees. These sub-committees study the problems of the district and make useful suggestions to the respective departments for the imple-

1. Vide Government Resolution, Agriculture and Forest Department, No. 2937, dated 31st January, 1950.
2. Vide Government Resolution Rural Development Department, No. D. D. B./1060/D, dated 10th August, 1960.

mentation. The Project Officer co-cordinates and supervises the work of the District Development Board. The term of the Board has been extended upto 29th February, 1972.

A resume of the activities of the District Development Board is given below :

(1) *Administration and Supervision of Tribal Development Blocks*

It may be observed that economically and socially, the Dangs district is a backward area. In order to give impetus to the development activities, two tribal development blocks were established in the district and have been functioning at present. The Board looks after these blocks.

(2) *Statistical Unit*

One Research Assistant works in the office of the Board. Different Departments execute the schemes formulated under the Five Year Plans. The statistical unit evaluates the performance of these departments.

After investigating and evaluating the performance of the scheme, the causes of delay as also slow progress are brought to the notice of the respective departments. Useful suggestions are also made. In this way, the unit assists in realising targets fixed under the State Five Year Plans for the district.

(3) *Local Development Works*

The Board made a survey of the villages where water facilities were not available at all. The survey showed that there were 130 villages of this type. The Board, therefore, formulated a scheme to construct 59 wells in 1961-62. This work was entrusted to the Deputy Engineer, Public Works Department, Dangs and the District Local Board, Dangs. Thereafter, in 1964-65, the construction of wells in the remaining 71 villages was undertaken through the agencies of the Public Works Department, the District Local Board, and the Tribal Development Blocks. In this programme, 70 wells have been constructed. Construction programme of wells failed in 12 cases and in the case of 5 wells, construction work has been abandoned for lack of water. In the case of villages where the well construction has failed, Government proposes to construct check-dams and tanks. For this purpose, an integrated scheme has been evolved after consultation with the Minor Irrigation Division of the Public Works Department. Thus, the District Development Board is seized of the water problem in the Dangs. In summer, most of the wells in the district get dried up. To meet the water scarcity in summer, the District Local Board has been given a grant of Rs. 10,000 from the grant meant for local development works.

(4) *Rural Broadcasting*

The Panchayat Raj is not introduced in the district. The tribal population of the district is extremely poor and is not in a position to raise popular contribution for the purpose of installation of radio sets. The radio sets in the district are, therefore, installed from the contingency grant of the District Development Board with the prior permission of the Government. Till March 1970, 82 radio sets were installed in the villages of the district. During 1970-71, it is proposed to instal 20 more radio sets in the villages. The priority in the installation of radio set is accorded to those villages which evince keen interest in developmental activities.

(5) *Development Works carried out from the proceeds of the ad hoc grants of Small Savings*

In 1960-61, the district had shown outstanding performance in respect of investment in small savings. In recognition of its performance, an *ad hoc* grant of Rs. 1,00,000 was sanctioned. A programme of constructing 13 school buildings in 13 villages was chalked out. The construction of 11 school buildings had been completed and the work pertaining to the remaining 2 school buildings is nearing completion. Of the total amount of Rs. 1,00,000, the residual amount of Rs. 14,000 is being utilised towards the development of sunset point at Ahwa.

In 1965-66. an *ad hoc* grant of Rs. 1,25,000 was sanctioned. Out of this grant, it was decided that Rs. 60,000 should be spent on completing the construction of the town hall at Waghai and that the remaining amount of Rs. 65,000 should be spent on renovation of the Darbar hall at Ahwa. In 1966-67, an *ad hoc* grant of Rs. 25,000 was sanctioned for constructing shelter rooms for Adivasis at Ahwa.

(6) *Exhibition and Darbar*

Prior to the Holi festival, an exhibition of various development activities in the district is arranged at Ahwa, the headquarters of the district. The Holi is an important festival of the tribal population of the Dangs district. People flock in large numbers to visit the *mela* or Darbar and purchase clothes and other utility articles. At the time of the Darbar, Government arranges an exhibition showing the activities of its departments in order to bring home the benefits of various schemes to the Dangi population.

(7) *Prohibition*

The prohibition has engaged the attention of the District Development Board. The prohibition branch of the District Development Board has

one Prohibition Officer and 8 *Sanchalaks* of *Sanskar Kendras*. For the purpose of prohibition propaganda, it engages 2 *Kalapathaks*. There are in all 8 *Sanskar Kendras* in the district, where magazines and daily newspapers are kept. The *Kalapathak* parties tour various parts of the district for the propaganda of prohibition by staging entertainment programmes. They also help popularising the development activities carried out in the district.

THE DANGS DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

After the formation of the Gujarat State, the development of the Dangs district engaged serious attention of the Government. In order to give impetus to the developmental activities, the Government decided to constitute a Council called the Dangs Development Council.[1] The Council consisted of 12 members. The Minister in charge of Backward Class Welfare was its President, while the Director of Social Welfare and the Collector of Dangs were to work as Secretary and Chief Executive Officer respectively of the Council.

(1) *Functions and the Powers of the Council*

The functions and powers given to the Council are very wide. The main function of the Council is to advise the Government on general questions regarding the development of the Dangs district with due regard to the comparative backwardness of the district and the special requirements of its tribal population. The Council has to prepare and submit to Government proposals for the annual development programme for the district before the 15th October each year so as to enable Government to sanction the programme before the beginning of the next financial year. The Council is also required to prepare the annual report of its work and the progress of its various developmental activities in the Dangs district and submit it to Government before the 15th June, each year.

Besides the function of the Council as an advisory body, it has also to act as an executive body responsible for the implementation of the programme as approved by the Government through the Chief Executive Officer, viz., the Collector of Dangs.

The power to recruit non-gazetted staff has also been given to the Council. As the Chief Executive Officer, the Collector is empowered to exercise all the powers which are exercisable by the various Heads of Departments in respect of schemes relating to their departments, except the Public Works Department.

1. Vide Government Resolution No. STW-1061 / 19934-G in Education and Labour Department, dated 30th October, 1961.

(2) *Meetings of the Council*

The Council is supposed to hold 4 meetings in a year, i. e., once in 3 months. The Council is also empowered to constitute a committee of its members to investigate and report on any question to the Council.

The Secretary of the Council is responsible for the preparation of agenda with necessary notes and for convening the meetings of the Council. He is also responsible to keep the minutes and proceedings of the Council for the year and submit to the Government annual reports of the Council.

The Council was reconstituted by the Government in December, 1964 and its tenure was fixed upto the period ending 31st December, 1966 and the same was extended upto 30th June, 1967 with two additional members.

The Council was again reconstituted with effect from 1st July, 1967.[1] According to this Government Resolution, the Council consists of 15 members of whom the Chief Minister Shri Hitendra Desai acts as a Chairman and Shri Bahadurbhai Patel, Member of the State Legislative Assembly acts as a Vice-Chairman. The Director of Backward Class Welfare, Gujarat State and the Collector, Dangs work respectively as the Secretary and the Chief Executive Officer of the Council.

The functions and the powers of the Council continue to be the same as before. The tenure of the reconstituted Council was for a period of 2 years ending on 30th June, 1969, which is extended upto 30th June, 1971.[2]

The meetings of the Dangs Development Council have proved very effective and fruitful. Resolutions passed in the meetings have been attended to by different departments in the district. As a result of the recommendations of the Council, considerable progress has been made in augmenting drinking water facilities, buildings for primary schools, roads, development of Saputara Hill Station, forest development, soil conservation and agricultural production.

THE DANGS HOUSING SCHEME

For making Dangis self-reliant, healthy and useful citizens as in the other parts of the country. Government considered the need to provide

1. Vide Government Resolution No. STW-1064 / 22598 (67)-J, dated 3rd June, 1967 in Education and Labour Department.

2. The term of the Dangs Development Council has been further extended by 6 months, i. e., upto 31st December, 1971. After the imposition of the President's rule in May 1971, Shri L. R. Dalal, I. C. S., Chief Secretary to Government has been appointed as Chairman of the Council in place of Shri Hitendrabhai Desai, former Chief Minister.

them with the housing accommodation and to settle them in a group so that they might leave the shifting cultivation. For this purpose, the Dangs Housing Board has been created with necessary powers.

Origin and Constitution—The scheme for construction of houses in Dangs district has been sanctioned as per Government Resolution, Development Department, No. CSH-2150-D, dated 27th November, 1950. The main object of the scheme is to provide healthy residence to Adivasis of this district. It was proposed to construct 4,000 tenements during a period of ten years in order to provide housing accommodation to 50 per cent of the families of the district. A Board known as the Housing Board was constituted by the then Bombay Government, which was amended from time to time and was reconstituted finally under G. R., R. D. D., No. CSH-2160/26702-B, dated 6th May, 1961 consisting of the following members :

1	The Collector of Dangs	Chairman
2	The Divisional Forest Officer, Dangs-Ahwa .. .	Member
3	The Executive Engineer, Navsari	,,
4	The Assistant District Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Dangs-Ahwa	,,
5	The Social Welfare Officer, Dangs-Ahwa	.
6	The President, District Local Board, Dangs-Ahwa ..	.
7	The Honorary Secretary. District Development Board. Dangs-Ahwa	
8	Two representatives of Co-operative Housing Society ..	
9	Shri Dhirubhai Bhikhubhai Mistry, Social Worker ..	,,
10	Senior Clerk, Housing Board: Dangs .	Honorary Secretary

The above Board is responsible for the execution of scheme, supervision over the working of the societies, construction of houses undertaken by the societies and supervision over the utilisation and recovery of Government loans advanced to the societies for construction of houses.

Powers of the Board—The Board is empowered to appoint necessary staff and utilise necessary funds from the Dangs District Reserve Fund for financing and implementing the Scheme. The Board has powers for acquisition of lands, purchase of materials, preparation of plans and estimates and carrying out all the activities incidental to implementation of the housing programme. Special staff consisting of an Accountant, Special Recovery Officer, Secretary, etc., has been appointed for implementing the scheme.

Co-operative Housing Societies—There are six range co-operative housing societies registered under the Gujarat Co-operative Societies Act, working under the Housing Board to implement the housing scheme.

Loans advanced and outstandings till 25th June, 1970 are as under :

Sl. No.	Name of the society	Loans advanced Rs. P.	Loans outstanding Rs. P.
1	Ahwa Range Co-operative Housing Society Ltd.	4,67,950.85	1,56,930.73
2	Waghai Range Co-operative Housing Society Ltd.	6,72,459.85	2,88,090.36
3	Galkund Range Co-operative Housing Society Ltd.	6,33,345.17	3,04,362.69
4	Pimpri Range Co-operative Housing Society Ltd.	4,22,926.80	2,57,548.74
5	Bardipada Range Co-operative Housing Society Ltd.	42,742.71	14,466.68
6	Subir Range Co-operative Housing Society Ltd.	69,014.43	18,357.38
	Total	23,08,439.81	10,39,756.58

There are 311 villages in the Dangs, out of which 94 villages have been covered under this scheme. Details of houses constructed in each range society are as under :

Sl. No.	Name of the society	Houses constructed	Villages covered
1	Ahwa Range Co-operative Housing Society Ltd.	457	13
2	Waghai Range Co-operative Housing Society Ltd.	689	31
3	Galkund Range Co-operative Housing Society Ltd.	634	30
4	Pimpri Range Co-operative Housing Society Ltd.	288	14
5	Bardipada Range Co-operative Housing Society Ltd.	28	3
6	Subir Range Co-operative Housing Society Ltd.	57	3
	Total	2,153	94

The Housing Board grants the management grant upto Rs. 240 to each society per year till the loan is repaid.

Investments and achievements—Progress achieved upto 1967-68 is given below :

Sl. No.	Stage	Targets Financial Rs.	Targets Physical No.	Achievements Financial Rs.	Achievements Physical No.
1	First Five Year Plan ..	Not fixed	..	12,40,133	1,093
2	Second Five Year Plan ..	Do.	..	7,81,705	331
3	Third Five Year Plan ..	Do.	500	8,22,972	669
4	1966-67	Do.	100	63,797	60
5	1967-68	Do.	Not fixed	71,529	..
	Total	..	600	29,80,136	2,153

The scheme is suspended since 1st March, 1967 as per G. R. A. & C. D. No. CSH-2166/4587-C, dated 1st March, 1967 because of unsatisfactory recovery of outstanding loans.

Total expenditure incurred excluding house-subsidy upto 31st March, 1969 for various items is as under :

		Rs.
1	Loans	23,08,440
2	Timber grant subsidy	3,84,870
3	Administrative expenditure	3,44,608
	Total	30,37,918

Total subsidy granted to co-operative housing societies is as under :

		Rs.
1	Timber subsidy	3,84,870
2	House construction subsidy @50 per cent ..	10,12,158
	Total	13,97,028

Timber subsidy has been granted as per Rural Development Department Memorandum No. CSH-2163/96567-B, dated 2nd April, 1964 and subsidy towards the cost of house construction at the rate of 50 per cent has been sanctioned by the Government as per G. R. A. & C. D. No. CSH-2162/23805-B, dated 6th June, 1963.

Present Position and Future Plan—Rs 10·39 lakhs are yet to be recovered from the co-operative housing societies as outstanding loans. The period to repay loans within 15 years has already expired ; hence looking

to the poor repaying capacity of Adivasis, extension upto 1974-75 has been granted by the Government under G. R. A. & C. D. CSH-2559/BR. No. 550-C, dated 2nd March, 1970.

A Special Recovery Officer has been appointed to recover dues pending from members as well as from societies. Four Secretaries of 6 housing societies are engaged in recovery. It is expected to revive this scheme in the Fourth Five Year Plan during 1972-73 and 1973-74 in a revised form. An additional amount of Rs. 2·50 lakhs has been provided for resuming the work under the scheme.

PART VI—WELFARE DEPARTMENTS

CHAPTER XIV

LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT

As the district is undeveloped and entirely rural, it lacks the normal pattern of the local self-government institutions. There are no municipalities or panchayats at any level, but there is the solitary institution of the District Local Board. The Bombay Village Panchayats Act, 1958 is still applicable to the district but owing to economic backwardness and the Adivasi population, the Panchayati Raj has not been introduced as in other districts, even though the Gujarat Panchayats Act, 1961 contains special provisions for the Dangs district. In the circumstances, the District Local Board is the only institution of local self-government in the district. Before the activities of District Local Board are dealt with, it is essential to examine the part played by the District Local Committee, Dangs, which functioned between the years 1953 and 1958.

It would be observed that in the former Bombay State, the district of Dangs was formed after the merger of several principalities which were ruled by Rajas and Naiks. The Government earnestly desired to have an institution for the development of local works on the lines of the institution of local self-government in the State. Accordingly, the Dangs Development Board was formed in 1952. It consisted of Government officials and local workers. With the passage of time, there developed three institutions, viz., (1) the District Development Board, (2) the Housing Board, and (3) the District Local Committee of Management

THE DISTRICT LOCAL COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

The Committee came into existence in 1953 and was purely a Government-financed body. Since there were no sources for realisation of income such as local fund cess or any other tax collections which are ordinarily levied in other places, it received every year from Government a certain amount for administrative expenditure and development works. The Committee's performance, however, was handicapped on account of illiterate population and absence of know-how which were essential in respect of works which the Committee intended to execute. Despite such limitations it had undertaken the development activities between 1954-55 to 1957-58 at

an aggregate cost of Rs. 2,20,334. The following important works were completed at the estimated cost shown against each item.

		Rs.
1	Ahwa Water Supply Scheme	50,000
2	Construction of 26 new wells and repairs to existing wells ..	80,500
3	Construction of 12 *kutcha* bandharas	45,000
4	Roads	24,500

In addition to the above works, public latrines at Ahwa and Waghai were constructed and street-lighting was also provided at these two places. The Committee was abolished in 1958 and was replaced by the District Local Board.

THE DANGS DISTRICT LOCAL BOARD

The Dangs District Local Board has been in existence since May 5, 1958 when the first elected body took office. It is governed by the provisions of the Bombay Local Boards Act, 1923. After the expiry of its term in 1964, fresh elections were held but after about a year, the Board was superseded by Government on grounds of incompetence and exceeding its powers. The term of supersession has been subsequently extended and at present the Board is administered by an Administrator appointed by the Government. He exercises all the powers of the District Local Board and is discharging his duties as laid down in the Bombay Local Boards Act, 1923.

Constitution

The Board consisted of 30 members of whom 18 were from the Scheduled Tribes, 2 women and the rest general. The district has been divided into 10 constituencies. Three members are returned from each constituency as detailed below :

	Constituency	General seats	Seats reserved for Scheduled Tribes	Seats reserved for Women
1	Ahwa	1	1	1
2	Galkund	1	2	..
3	Shamgahan	1	2	..
4	Sakarpatal	1	2	..
5	Waghai	1	1	1
6	Bardipada	1	2	..
7	Subir	1	2	..
8	Pipaldahad	1	2	..
9	Laochali	1	2	..
10	Gadhvi	1	2	..
	Total	10	18	2

Shri Chhotubhai G. Naik was the first President of the District Local Board. He was succeeded in 1964 by Shri Umarsing Kiralsing Pawar, Raja of Gadhvi.

Financial Resources

The Board gets grant equal to 2 per cent of the forest revenue, 50 per cent of the expenditure on the dearness allowance of the staff and 5 per cent of the land revenue and local fund cess. This amount approximates to Rs. 2,50,000 per year. In addition to this the Board derives income by the way of rent from markets, water works, *pravasigruhs*, etc. This income is not much and is approximately about Rs. 50,000. It would thus be observed that the total yearly income of the Board is in the neighbourhood of Rs. 3 lakhs.

Expenditure

The statement given below indicates the items on which the Board incurred expenditure in 1969-70.

Items	Amount Rs. P.
Establishment	1,05,931.46
Water works	38,754.03
Street lighting	30,536.61
Maintenance of roads	20,000.00
Construction of new village approach roads	20,000.00
Pravasigruhs	2,500.00
Water scarcity	30,000.00
Drinking water	30,000.00
Miscellaneous	38,754.03
Total	3,16,476.12

Activities

The details of the activities carried out by the Board are described below :

(1) *Water Works*—The Board maintains two water works one at Ahwa and the other at Waghai. These water works were constructed by Government and were subsequently handed over to the Board for operating them. They supply 50,000 gallons of water daily. Of late Government has installed new pipelines at Ahwa.

(2) *Street Lighting*—The following villages of the district, namely, Ahwa, Waghai, Kudkas, Nadakhkhadi, Pimpri, Chinchgaotha, Bhavangadh, Chikatia and Daodahad have been electrified. The expenditure on power

consumption and bulbs for these villages is borne by the Board which approximately comes to Rs. 15,000 per year. In the villages of Subir, Chankhal and Gadhvi, kerosene lamps have been provided in the street. The annual expenditure in respect of these villages amounts to Rs. 816.

(3) *Markets*—The Board had constructed two *pucca* markets one at Ahwa and the other at Waghai. The shops in these markets are rented to businessmen. The rent varies between Rs. 5 and Rs. 10 per month as per extent of accommodation.

(4) *Maintenance of Roads*—The total length of village approach roads including street roads of Ahwa and Waghai under the charge of Board approximates to 332·11 kms. These roads are every year repaired and maintained by the Board. The Board is also entrusted with the work of maintenance of the village approach roads constructed under the Community Development and National Extension Service Programmes. For the purpose of maintenance and repairs it incurs expenditure to the tune of Rs. 15,000 every year.

(5) *Construction of new Village Approach Roads*—The Board also undertakes the construction of new village approach roads and for this purpose it sets apart every year an amount of Rs. 10,000. Within this amount, village approach roads admeasuring 5 miles can be constructed. In some places, culverts have also been constructed.

(6) *Pravasigruhs (Rest-houses)*—Two rest-houses have been constructed at Ahwa and Waghai. These are maintained by the Board. The accommodation provided in these two rest-houses consists of 40 and 16 beds at Ahwa and Waghai respectively. The arrangements have also been made for meals, breakfast, tea, etc., on payment of reasonable charges. These facilities are available to officers and the public alike. The Board spends nearly Rs. 8,000 on *pravasigruhs.*

There are six *dharmashalas,* one each at Ahwa, Waghai, Shamgahan, Galkund, Hindla and Taklipada under the control of the District Local Board. These were constructed by the District Local Committee of Management between 1955 and 1958.

(7) *Gardens*—The gardens at Ahwa and Waghai are looked after and maintained by the Board. There are in all 5 gardens.

(8) *Water Scarcity*—Even though the average rainfall is 100", many villages in the district face acute scarcity of water in summer. In order to allevlate the sufferings of the people, the Board maintains 50 to 60 *parabs* or water-places in different villages. It also supplies drinking water with the help of bullock-carts at 25 to 35 villages. At Ahwa and in 14 other

villages, where it is not possible to supply water by carts, water is supplied by tankers given on nominal rent by Government. The recurring expenditure in this respect is borne by the Board. The expenditure towards bullock-carts, *parabs*, and tankers approximates to Rs. 35,000 every year.

(9) *Drinking Water*—The Board prepares and maintains existing public wells in the district. It also constructs new wells where deemed necessary.

(10) *Miscellaneous*—In addition to the activities mentioned above, the Board evinces keen interest in social and cultural activities carried out by different Government Departments and public institutions and also gives grant-in-aid wherever necessary. It also reimburses the loss incurred by the Postal Department in respect of post-offices situated in different villages of the district. The amount in this respect approximates Rs. 2,000 every year.

(11) *Education*—The Board constructs new *pucca* school buildings in the district with Government grants. The District School Board provides financial assistance and the works are executed by the Board. In 1969-70, 41 works for construction of new school buildings were in progress and 65 new works were proposed to be undertaken during the same year. Till 1969-70 the Board has constructed in all 56 school buildings. The extent of expenditure on the works already in progress, amounts to Rs. 5 lakhs, while for those proposed it would be in the neighbourhood of Rs. 13 lakhs.

(12) *Saputara-Girinagar*—The Board has played a very important part in the development of Saputara *girimathak*. It first of all constructed a *pravasigruh* at Saputara which has now been given to the office of the Assistant Director of Information for office and other purposes. The construction of 41 tenements sanctioned by the Government for rehabilitating displaced Adivasis was executed through the agency of the Board under the supervision of its personnel within a short period of 4 months. All these tenements have been occupied.

(13) *Library and Reading Rooms*—As there was no public library and reading room at Ahwa, the Board decided to undertake construction of the same at the cost of Rs. 25,000. The building was constructed in 1970 for housing the library and reading room.

Panchayati Raj

In the Gujarat State, the Panchayati Raj was introduced under the Gujarat Panchayats Act, 1961 with effect from 1st April, 1963. Exception was, however, made in the case of the Dangs district, because of its peculiar socio-economic conditions. The law, however, has made special provisions for introduction of the Panchayati Raj in the Dangs district. For the

purpose of constituting a district panchayat for the Dangs, gram panchayats are to be divided into groups. The number of such groups is not to exceed 10 and each group shall consist of not more than 8 grams. The gram panchayats in each group shall elect from among the Sarpanchas one Sarpanch to be a member of the district panchayat. The district panchayat shall consist of the elected members such as Sarpanchas elected by the group of gram panchayats and members elected by qualified voters of the district. The number of members to be elected shall be equal to the number of Sarpanchas. Besides, there will be 4 reserved seats—2 seats for women and 2 seats for Scheduled Castes. Two persons having practical experience in education and residing in the district shall also be members. The Collector of the district, the Mamlatdar, Members of the Parliament, Members of the Council of State and the Members of the Legislative Assembly shall be associate members. Since the Dangs is a one-taluka district, the district panchayat shall exercise all the powers of the taluka panchayat in addition to its own.

With the awakening caused by the Community Development Programme and the development schemes under the Five Year Plans, the Dangis desired to have a Panchayati Raj introduced in the Dangs. As a result, elections have recently been held to constitute 67 gram and group panchayats in the district. The panchayats will cover all the areas of the district except the area under the Saputara Notified Area Committee. For the panchayat administration, a section under the District Gram Panchayat Officer has been set up in the Collector's office. This officer will be responsible for supervision, direction and control over the working of the Panchayati Raj in the district. Government has sanctioned additional 25 posts of the Secretaries (Mantries) of Panchayats, in addition to the existing 25 Talatis in the district.

CHAPTER XV

EDUCATION AND CULTURE

Historical Background

Due to inaccessibility and remoteness of the areas generally inhabited by the tribals, it was extremely difficult to establish contacts with them. Because of this and other inherent physical limitations, it is difficult to get a clearer picture of the progress of education in the area, prior to Independence. Undoubtedly a few anthropologists, welfare workers and missionaries who had contacts with the tribals, have left great valuable information and done favourable work in the field of education.

The British Government in India never thought seriously of taking any constructive steps for the educational development of these people. The British followed a policy of conciliation with the Bhil Chiefs in order that they might not indulge in depredations in the neighbouring areas. The idea behind it was to maintain law and order and to facilitate exploitation of the Dangs forests for supply of timber to the Navy and the Railways.

There are isolated references where individual liberal minded British Officers took interest in promoting education among the Dangis. This is revealed from the report dated 13th April. 1854 of Major W. J. Morris, Political Assistant to Mansfield, Collector and Magistrate of Khandesh[1] "The heirs of these chiefs are with their parents, they are being brought up in ignorance and barbarism. Inducement has been held out by me to encourage the parents to send their sons to school for education but until Government assures appointment of Diwan over these Rajahs into their own hands, nothing can be done with them. I expect this year to effect this most desirable object."

Further, in the same report, Morris states, "...the Dangs has certainly much improved in its social relation since the British Government have held an intercourse with it and it may be reasonably expected that in a few years more we shall be able to open the eyes of the Rajahs to the benefit of introducing education amongst their people and to the necessity of throwing aside many of barbarous prejudices which have hitherto retarded their civilisation I have taken the opportunity of trying to educate those of Dangs Bheels who have been sentenced to confinement by the magistrate for criminal offences, and I have one Dang Rajah Nowboo Wd Kursal of Dang Garvee a Jamadar in the Bheel Corps who has been also educated.

1. *Selections from the Records of the Bombay Government*, No XXVI, New Series. (1856), p. 165.

This plainly shows that the Dangs Bheels are as capable as any other race of receiving education."

Credit must be given to Christian missionaries for their pioneering efforts towards the spread of education amongst the tribals. The American Baptist Mission established its first centre at Bulsar in February, 1895. From there, they started a number of activities in nearby areas. The first primary school was established at Ahwa by the missionaries in the year 1905. They got assistance from the British Political Agents. In the year 1913, there were 12 schools and 84 students.

In the Bombay Presidency, apart from the work done by the private institutions, practically not much work was done prior to 1931. In November, 1928, the Government of Bombay appointed a committee to enquire into the conditions of the aboriginal tribes under the chairmanship of Mr. Starte. The committee observed :

> "The education of the aboriginal tribes is the hardest problem which the educationalist has to solve in the Presidency and it is the one in which least success has been obtained hitherto............ We consider that compulsion forms the final solution for the education of these people and though on financial grounds general compulsion may not be possible at present throughout the Presidency, very valuable experience might be gained in the meanwhile without much expense by introducing it into limited areas populated mainly by aboriginal tribes[1]."

On the recommendation of the committee, an officer was appointed in 1931, for watching the progress of the Backward Classes including the tribals. Later, that Government also appointed a Special Enquiry Officer, Mr. D. Symington to report on the aboriginal and hill tribes of the then, partially excluded areas in the Bombay Presidency.

Mr. Symington, endorsing in 1938, Starte committee's recommendations, expressed his strong opinion that it was high time that funds were provided to implement them, and he was of the view that the education of the Adivasis should be withdrawn from the Local School Boards and Government should resume the control of primary education in these areas.

As a part of the recommendation of Mr. D. Symington, the responsibility for primary education was taken by the Government and with effect from 1941, the Dangs Administration itself took up the maintenance of Schools. The Mission Schools and the Government Schools had carried out a similar primary syllabus and had done some pioneer work.

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1. NAIK T. B., *The Bhils—A Study* (1956), pp. 337-338.

The whole question of education for the Dangs district was examined by the Political Adviser to the Crown Representative, when he paid a prolonged visit to the Dangs in 1944. The advicc of Dr. Verrier Elwin, the anthropologist and social worker was also taken in this matter. As a result, in 1945, proposals were submitted to Government for the establishment of one first class boarding school for about 60 boys with well-paid and well-trained staff. The intention was that this boarding school should form a nucleus of well-trained educated boys, who would be guaranteed employment in Government service and who would largely be employed in due course to establish primary schools up and down the Dangs. It was also recommended that the existing primary schools should be allowed to continue but their efforts should primarily be concentrated on the organisation of one first class boarding school. The proposals were approved and, shortly thereafter, the Daly Rajkumar School which was exclusively for sons and relatives of Dangi Rulers; was converted into the Dangs School in which admission was thrown open to all Dangis and not only to the relations to the Chiefs. However, admission to non-Dangi pupils was prohibited.[1]

In fact, it was only after Independence that the Government focussed its attention on the welfare of the Scheduled Castes and Tribes. The makers of the Constitution took special note of the condition in which these weaker sections lived and provided a number of safeguards for the promotion of their interests, including educational, in the Constitution. Special mention in this connection must be made of article 46 of the Constitution, in which it has been made one of the Directive Principles of State Policy to promote, with special care, *inter alia*, the educational interests of the weaker sections of the people, particularly the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes.

GROWTH OF LITERACY SINCE 1951

According to the Census of 1951, there were 2,570 literates in the district of Dangs as constituted then and formed 5·45 per cent of the total population. Percentage of male literates was then 8·96, while that of the female literates 1·38 per cent only. In 1961, the percentage of literacy rose to 9·26 per cent, 14·26 per cent for males and 3·78 per cent for females.

STATEMENT XV·1

Literacy by Age-groups, 1961

Age-groups	Persons	Males	Females
All ages	9.26	14.26	3.78
5—14	13.15	18.47	7.19
15—34	13.71	22.13	4.82
35—59	6.71	10.76	1.66
60+	2.58	4.40	0.30

Source : *District Census Handbook* 1961, Dangs, p. 8.

1. *Administration Report for the Dangs*, from 1st August, 1944 to 31st March, 1946.

The overall percentage of literacy in the district was 9·26. Literates among children in the age-group 5-14 constitute 13·18 per cent of whom males account for 18·47 per cent and females 7·19 per cent of their respective population. The highest literacy among persons and males is to be found in the age-group 15-34 and among the females in the school-going age-group 5-14.

STATEMENT XV·2

Educational Levels in District in 1961

Sl. No.	Educational levels	Persons	Males	Females
1	Illiterate	64,940	32,083	32,857
2	Literate (without educational level) ..	1,360	1,114	246
3	Primary or Junior Basic	4,893	3,879	1,014
4	Matriculation and above	374	342	32
	Total	**71,567**	**37,418**	**34,149**

Source :
District Census Handbook 1961, Dangs, p. 40.

From the above data, a few significant facts emerge. As the district is inhabited by tribal people, the standard of literacy is generally low. 90·74 per cent of the total population is illiterate. Secondly, those without any educational levels are comparatively less than those who have passed primary or junior basic stage. Lastly, those, who have passed matriculation and above or have acquired some technical training, constitute a very small percentage of total population.

PRIMARY EDUCATION

In the peculiar circumstances prevailing in the district, Government have taken upon themselves the responsibility for primary education and for the purpose of administration, set up a Board for primary education. Voluntary schools which had sprung up after Independence were gradually closed down and in their place Government Schools were opened. The extent of progress made in the primary education in the district will be evident from the following statement.

Year	Number of Primary Schools	Number of pupils		
		Boys	Girls	Total
1948–49	6		..	284
1951–52	94	2,670	671	3,341
1956–57	91	3,153	1,049	4,202
1961-62	222	5,187	2,223	7,410
1966-67	293	7,692	4,412	12,104
1968-69	302	9,939	5,233	15,172

Source :
Administrative Officer, Dangs, Ahwa.

On the eve of Independence, there were only 6 primary schools with 284 pupils in the district. In 1951-52, the number of primary schools rose to 94 and that of pupils to 3,341. Primary education registered a remarkable growth between 1951-61 when it added 128 schools and 4,069 pupils. Out of these, 2,517 were boys and 1,552 were girls. During 1968-69, the number of primary schools rose from 293 to 302 and of pupils from 12,104 to 15,172. In 1970, 28 villages had no schools at all but the pupils of these villages attended schools in the nearby villages. It can be concluded that 91·06 per cent of the villages of the district were provided with facilities for primary education.

Compulsory Education

Compulsory education was introduced in the Bombay State by stages. But the Dangs district was excluded from the purview of the scheme because of its hilly forest areas, general backwardness and predominance of the Adivasi population. After Gujarat State was formed, the Dangs was also excluded from the scheme of compulsory education introduced in other districts for the age-group 7-8 in the year 1961-62. However, with the progress of primary education under the Five Year Plans, it became administratively feasible to introduce compulsory education in the Dangs district also in the age-group 7-8 during the year 1962-63. Such compulsion was introduced for the age-group 6-11 after the completion of the Third Five Year Plan in 1966-67.

With a view to inproving attendance of the Scheduled Tribes students in primary schools of scheduled areas, the primary teachers working in these areas are given non-pensionable special pay subject to the condition that each teacher maintains an attendance of 50 per cent of the pupils on roll in his charge. This concession serves as an inducement to the teacher to work with more zeal and persuade the tribals to send their children to schools.

Basic Education

The new ideology of the basic education has also influenced the educational activities of the district. Under the scheme, the education should centre round some form of manual productive work. Children should not get merely book-knowledge, but also learn some simple craft to inculcate in them a sense of self-reliance, responsibility, initiative, enterprise and resourcefulness. Under the programme of converting simple primary schools into basic schools, since 1961, there were three basic schools at Waghai, Pipaldahad and Silotmal, which give training in spinning and weaving to 570 students. The number, however, dropped to 462 in the year 1968-69, as the two schools of Pipaldahad and Silotmal were closed, because of the proximity of the Ashramshalas.

Primary School Buildings

The absence of good school buildings in the district was a great problem. It was hindering the progress of primary education. The problem was, however, solved with the co-operation of the villagers. The position of the construction of the school buildings is as under :

Year	Number of buildings constructed	
	Kutcha	*Pucca*
Before Independence	..	1
1951	34	..
1956	..	3
1966	..	68
1968–69	..	24
Total	**34**	**96**

Prior to Independence, there was only one school building in the district. The number of school buildings increased to 35 in 1951 and 130 in 1968-69. These buildings were constructed by the District Local Board, Dangs and the Tribal Development Block.

SECONDARY EDUCATION

On the establishment of a number of primary schools, the need for a school for secondary education became apparent and pressing. In view of this in the year 1952-53, an eighth class was added to the Central School at Ahwa which has been developed now as a fullfledged Secondary School. In 1958-59 the total number of students in this school was 142. In 1965-66, the number of students rose to 267. Another secondary school with agriculture bias has been started at Waghai in June, 1967. The number of students in these two schools was 345 in the year 1967-68. Both these schools are managed by Government. A hostel with an accommodation for about 100 Dangi high school students has been opened at Ahwa with effect from August 1, 1970.

SPREAD OF FEMALE EDUCATION

Before Independence, the progress in the field of female education in the district was very little. This was due to lack of educational facilities and the entire population being tribal. The people had very little contact with civilized world. However, after Independence, girls' education has expanded considerably in the district. In 1952, there were 671 girls in the primary schools and only 4 girls were in the secondary school. In 1961, the number rose to 2,223 in the primary schools and 36 in the secondary school. In 1968-69, the number of girls students on the roll shot upto 5,233 in the primary schools and 88 in the secondary schools. There is no separate arrangement for education of girls. All of them have to go to the mixed schools. Since 1968, the State Government has made provision of free

education for girls studying upto Stds. VIII and IX. In the year 1968-69 40 students were benefited by this provision in the district. After passing the S. S. C. examination, some of the Adivasi girls go out for training as nurses.

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

The tribals living in the remote hills and forests remained uninfluenced by the main currents of development outside the tribal area. In the absence of industrial environment, the need for technical education is not of very much importance to the tribals. But to ease pressure on land and solve to some extent the problem of unemployment among tribals, the need for vocational and professional education is felt. In view of this the first school with vocational and professional bias at Ahwa was established in the year 1964. The progress of vocational training centres are stated below.

The Carpentry Training Schools, Ahwa

Two training schools, teaching carpentry were established at Ahwa and Pipalghodi, one in the year 1964 and the other in the year 1966. They are managed by the Government. The trainees are given hostel facilities. 75 per cent subsidy is given to the students for purchase of tools. The number of students on their roll in the year 1964-65 was 16 which rose to 30 in the year 1965-66. One of the schools was closed in the year 1967, and the number of students dropped to 9 in the year 1969-70.

The Smithy-cum-Welding School, Ahwa

The institution was established in the year 1964. It is managed by the Government. It provides training in smithy-*cum*-welding. Plastic net work is also being taught in the institution. In the year 1969-70, the number of students on its roll was 12. It provides hostel accommodation for the trainees.

The Pre-vocational Training Centre, Ahwa

The institution was established in the year 1968, as the Government institute. It conducts classes for (i) fitting-moulding, (ii) sheet-metal and gas welding, (iii) smithy-turning and (iv) carpentry. The number of students on its roll was 23 in the year 1968-69. Adivasi Chhatralaya provides hostel facilities for its students. The trainees are also given stipend of Rs. 10 per month on the basis of regular attendance. Besides this, they are given free text-books and note-books.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical education is a curricular subject in the schools. At primary level, one period per day is assigned to physical education. Besides this, a

number of activities are organised to strengthen physical education in the district. The details of these activities are described below.

Dangi school-students participate in the sport competition held at district and State levels. At district level, in the year 1969-70, 796 students (617 boys and 179 girls) took part in junior section of the competitions while 774 students (595 boys and 179 girls) took part in the senior section. In the general competition, 159 students participated out of which 155 were boys and 4 girls. It is also interesting to note that 409 students (189 boys and 220 girls) participated in the youth festivals.

At the State level competition, 53 students (38 boys and 15 girls) participated in senior section while 37 students (32 boys and 5 girls) took part in the open competition. 35 students of which 12 were boys and 23 were girls took part in the youth festival at the State level.

From the above account, it is clear that gradually physical education is becoming popular in the district.

FACILITIES GIVEN TO THE STUDENTS BY THE SCHOOL BOARD, DANGS DISTRICT

Hostel Facilities

In the district, there are five hostels run by the District School Board. They are located at (1) Ahwa (2) Waghai (3) Nadakchond (4) Lahancharia and (5) Pipaldahad. Free lodging, boarding, clothing and other facilities are provided to the students in these hostels. In the year 1969, about 270 pupils took advantage of these hostels.

Mid-day Meal

Tribal children are generally undernourished. This scheme seeks to provide nourishing food both for maintaining good health and attraction to students to attend schools. It was introduced in the former Bombay State and is continued after bifurcation of the State. The annual expenditure works out to Rs. 2 to 3 lakhs under the scheme.

Supply of Clothes

Due to poverty the Dangi children attended school in tattered and dirty clothes. It was felt that these children be provided with new clothes. A scheme to provide uniforms to the school-going children was in vogue during the former Bombay State, but it was later on dropped. On formation of the Gujarat State, the scheme was reintroduced. Under this scheme, two pairs of clothes are provided free to all Adivasi primary school-going children of the district. In the year 1967-68, about 12,000 students took

advantage of the scheme which entailed an annual expenditure of Rs. 2·25 lakhs.

In addition to above schemes, the Government also provides free text-books, pencils, note-books and slates to all Adivasi pupils which cost about Rs. 20,000 per year.

ASHRAM SCHOOLS

The important scheme included in the programme for the expansion of education amongst the Scheduled Tribes is the opening of various types of schools, especially the Ashram Schools. The importance of Ashram Schools for the educational development of the tribals needs no emphasis, as they aim at inculcating in the minds of the Scheduled Tribes children, the fundamentals of cultural, social, moral or hygienic principles of a cultured society. They are residential schools, generally located in the tribal environments. They are very popular with the tribals. Among other schemes are, award of scholarships, providing hostel facilities, opening of technical and vocational schools, providing stipends, books and stationery grants, boarding grants, mid-day meals, uniforms, etc., and other help to the students at various levels.

A number of Ashram Schools are established in the district after Independence. They are listed below :

Sl. No.	Location	Starting year	Management	Number of inmates in the year 1968-69		
				Boys	Girls	Total
1	Kalibel ..	1954	Dang Swaraj Ashram, Ahwa	70	45	115
2	Singana ..	1960	Government	74	46	120
3	Chinchli ..	"	"	76	44	120
4	Pimpri ..	"	"	66	54	120
5	Baripada ..	1961	"	70	46	116
6	Mahal ..	"	"	75	45	120
7	Garkhadi ..	"	"	80	40	120
8	Rambhas ..	1963	"	67	23	90
9	Malegaon ..	1967	"	29	18	47
	Total ..	..	..	607	361	968

Source : Educational Inspector, District Dangs, Ahwa.

Among these Ashram Schools, eight are working under the direct supervision of Government and one is run by the Dang Swaraj Ashram, Ahwa, with a grant-in-aid from Government. The inmates in all these institutions

are provided facilities of free education, boarding, lodging, clothing and medical aid. In addition to these, the Government provides free of charge teaching aids like slates, pens, note-books, text-books, etc. In the year 1968-69, 968 students were benefited by these institutions, out of these inmates 607 were boys and 361 were girls. In view of the favourable impact of the Ashram Schools, Government has decided to open more such schools.

Social Education

The objective of social education is not confined only to the spread of literacy, but it aims at preparing the people for responsible citizenship. It helps an individual citizen to participate with understanding in the activities around him, to develop his latent faculties and create in him a healthy, scientific and civilized outlook towards life and his surroundings. In order to achieve these wider objectives, the programme of social education needs to be oriented to local needs and conditions as well as to the cultural level of the particular locality covered. Efforts are made to promote adult education in the district. The progress achieved so far is as follows.

Sl. No.	Year	Number of social education classes	Adults made literate
1	1961-62	32	240
2	1966-67	17	183
3	1968-69	4	81

Source :

Collector and Chairman, District Development Board, Dangs, Ahwa.

Education among Backward Classes

Education may be construed as preparation for the discharge of adulthood roles. In the case of Backward Class people, it is the extent of literacy which is very significant. Education in general is measured by the existence of the number of schools and the number of students attending them. The following statement reveals the state of literacy and educational standards of the Backward Classes in the district.

Percentage Distribution of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes by Educational Levels in the District, 1961

Educational levels	Total population of Scheduled Castes and Tribes			Percentage of Scheduled Castes and Tribes		
	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
Illiterate	62,058	30,751	31,307	93.33	89.13	97.86
Literate and educated	4,436	3,751	685	6.67	10.87	2.14
Literate (without educational level)	1,219	1,009	210	1.83	2.92	0.66
Primary or Junior Basic	3,199	2,724	475	4.81	7.90	1.48
Matriculation and above	18	18	..	0.03	0.05	
Total	66,494	34,502	31,992	100.00	100.00	100.00

Source :

Based on Census of India 1961, Vol. V, Gujarat, Part V-A, *Tables on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes*, pp. 230 and 257.

These figures reveal a low level of literacy among the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Out of 66,494 persons, only 4,436 or 6·67 per cent are literate. Another significant conclusion is that in the district those without any educational levels are comparatively less than those who passed primary or junior basic stage. Those, who have passed the matriculation (S. S. C.) and above are a small percentage of their population. Their women-folk are mostly illiterate, as out of a total female population of 31,992 souls, only 685 or 2·14 per cent are literate, who had gone upto primary or junior basic stage. The statement also reveals that there was no Dangi girl who had passed the S. S. C. examination.

Educational Facilities for Backward Classes

The educational facilities for the Backward Classes fall into two categories, viz., (1) those which are available to all the Backward Classes in the State and (2) those which are special to the Dangs district.

(1) *General Facilities*

The extent of education and literacy is an important indicator for assessing the progress of the society. Due to the peculiar geographical condition and climate, the Dangs district differs from other districts of the State. In addition, more than 92 per cent of the population in this district consists of the members of the Scheduled Tribes. Its development problems, therefore, centre round the tribal problems.

There are practically no Scheduled Castes persons and therefore, untouchability is not a problem in the district. The Backward Class pupils are freely admitted to the public schools and exempted from payment of fees.

A brief description of some of the main education schemes designed to promote education among Backward Classes is given below.

For Primary Education—Primary education is free to all, and scholarships are offered to Backward Class students at various rates. At primary level in Stds. V to VII scholarship of Rs. 30 per annum is given to each student. The scholarships are also given at different rate to those students who are staying in hostels, where they are provided free boarding and lodging facilities.

For Secondary Education—Backward Class students receiving secondary education are exempted from tuition fees according to their parents' income. Full tuition fees are paid to those students, whose parents' income from all sources is less than Rs. 3,600 and half tuition fees to those whose parents' earn between Rs. 3,601 to 4,800. Scholarships are awarded to Backward Class students studying in Stds. VIII to XI and other technical and

professional courses, who have secured 40 per cent of marks or more in the last annual examination, and the total annual income of whose parents' does not exceed Rs. 6,000. Backward Class students are granted examination fees for the S. S. C. examination. If their parents' annual income does not exceed Rs. 3,600. At secondary level in Stds. VIII to XI, the scholarships of Rs. 60 is given per student per annum for ordinary courses and Rs. 90 for technical courses, but the scholarships at half rate are given to those students who are staying in the Backward Class hostels.

For Higher Education—For the post-S. S. C. examination courses, the Government of India scholarships are awarded by the Directorate of Social Welfare. The rates of scholarships range from Rs. 27 to 75 per month per student. To facilitate their admission in various courses, Government has reserved certain percentage of seats for them in various educational institutions, higher and technical.

Hostel Facilities—The grant-in-aid to the extent of Rs. 30 per student per month is provided to each student in the hostel. In cases, where hostels do not have their own house, Government gives the house rent to such Backward Class hostels. There are seven hostels in the district. Out of these two are run by the voluntary agencies and given grant from the Social Welfare Department and five other hostels are run by the District School Board, Dangs. These hostels also admit Scheduled Tribe students. The students are provided free lodging, boarding and two pairs of clothes. Besides, the students are provided similar facilities in nine Ashram Schools located in the district.

(2) *Special Schemes for Dangs*

In addition, there are certain special schemes implemented in the Dangs district, having regard to its local needs and conditions. In order to encourage education in the entire State, it is only in the Dangs district that slates, pens, pair of clothes and mid-day meals are given free to the school-going children and attendance allowance to teachers in the primary schools.

Every primary student of the Backward Classes is supplied with 2 pairs of clothes. The expenditure on this scheme for the year 1967-68 was Rs. 2·25 lakhs and the number of students who availed of the benefit of the scheme was 12,000. Backward Class students in primary schools are also supplied free slates, pens, text-books, etc. In the year 1968-69, the CARE organisation introduced a scheme of providing mid-day meal material weighing totally about 127 grams made of oil, milk powders, etc., to all children studying in primary schools.

During the year 1968-69, 1,397 Backward Class students studying in primary and secondary schools were awarded scholarships of Rs. 43,140,

26 Backward Class students were granted S. S. C. examination fees, and 30 Dangi youths were given scholarships for motor driving training. During the period 1966 to 1969 under the scheme, 72 Dangis were given training at the cost of Rs. 23,686.

Expenditure on education is an investment in man. This dictum is followed in the Dangs district. This will be seen from the statistics of expenditure on education set out below :

Year	Expenditure incurred in Rs.
1947–48	5,000
1955–56	3,00,000
1960–61	4,65,000
1968–69	17,18,000

These figures show that the annual expenditure was less than 4 lakhs before 1960. It was only after the constitution of a separate State of Gujarat that increased outlays were provided for scheme on education. Since 1960-61, the expenditure on education has increased four-fold. This shows that the State Government is keen to spread and promote education among the Dangis.

To sum up, the progress of education made at different levels after the formation of the separate State of Gujarat is indicated below :

	1960–61	1968–69
Primary schools	165	302
Number of students in primary schools	5,715	15,172
Secondary schools	1	2
Number of students in secondary schools ..	120	316
Ashram schools	4	9
Total Expenditure on Education .. .	4 lakhs	17 lakhs

The above data indicate the rapid progress achieved in education after 1960.

EDUCATIONAL MANAGEMENTS

The Church of the Brethren Mission School, Ahwa—In the Dangs territory, the Dangis were generally illiterate and there were no facilities for even elementary education. The Political Agent, therefore, invited the Christian missionaries in 1903 to start schools for spread of education among the Adivasis. The Mission started work and opened school at Ahwa in 1905. Thereafter, the Mission established a number of schools at different places in the district. They were run with the grant from Government. The

students who passed from the Mission Schools were given employment in Government service.

On the eve of Independence, there was one Mission hostel with 100 boys and 40 girls. Five sons of the Dangs Chiefs also stayed in this hostel.

After Independence, the Government undertook the full responsibility of primary education. A District School Board was constituted. Thereafter, the Mission activities in the field of education gradually declined. At present, there is only one school at Ahwa run by the Mission.

The Dang Swaraj Ashram, Ahwa—The Dang Swaraj Ashram was established in 1948 by the social workers headed by Shri Jugatrambhai Dave of the Vedchhi Ashram (Surat). Its main objectives were to promote Khadi production, spread of education, social education, co-operative movement, prohibition and relief work.

By constant propaganda and Government assistance, the Ashram has been able to create the climate of education among the Dangis. At present Ashram manages two Chhatralayas at Ahwa, one is for boys and the other is for girls. In addition, it runs one Ashramshala at Kalibel which is the only Ashramshala run by a private institution in the district. The Ashram also manages one training centre at Ahwa for the spread of Rashtrabhasha.

LIBRARIES

There was no library in the district before Independence. Introduction of compulsory education and social education created conditions favourable for the growth of the library movement in the district.

At present, one library is maintained by the Publicity and Information Department at Ahwa. The tribal development blocks have opened 18 information centres in different villages, with 75 per cent financial assistance from Government and the matching popular contribution from the villages.

CULTURE

Pre-literate tribals in India never understood education in the modern sense. Literacy was not a test of intelligence, nor does it indicate social or cultural competency. The common sense exercised by a tribal in his immediate social life, enables him also to exercise his insight in his aesthetic life. It is, therefore, but natural that culture as we understand can have very little place in the life of the Dangis. The aesthetic sense of the Dangis has not much developed. We do not find pictures, carving on the walls or painting on earthen pots. In the Pachavi festival, youngsters, paint on the walls, pictures of serpents, scorpions,

tigers, dancers, farmers, plough, bullocks, *nagli* plants, etc., with the paint prepared from rice-flour. Some families paint pictures of animals such as horses, cows, etc., with red earth and white chalk, but carving on bone, stone or wood are totally absent. In the field of literature, it is difficult to get common literary forms but folk-songs and folk-tales abound. In the field of art, we find folk-dances not as articulate, imaginative and creative as we have, but their dances stem from their urge for pleasure, joy and escape from the otherwise hard, dull and miserable life. The folk-art, any way, is an urge for expression of individual and group consciousness. Artistic life of the tribals, therefore, consists of drum-music and dancing, which forms the integral part of the life.

DANCE AND MUSIC

Dances among the Dangis follow the usual typical tribal dances. In all of their important activities, dance and music find a pride of place. It is significant to note that their dances are not accompanied by songs. Their drum-music plays an important part in their dances. The physical effect is explained by the fact that the music of the drum is more closely connected with the foundations of aurally generated emotions than that of any other instruments. It is complete in itself to cover a big range of human feelings which is not in the case of other subordinate instruments, such as Thali, Flute (कहल्या) or Pipe. This musical appeal of the drum is very powerful. The drum-player is practically confined to rhythm and various manipulations depend on his ability.

According to the *Khandesh Gazetteer*, the Bhils are fond of amusement and excitement. Music and dancing play an important role in their amusement. The following observations are made by the Gazetteer about the Bhil dances.

> "In a Bhil dance men and women, keeping time to the music with a double shuffle bend backwards and forwards, wheeling round the players in an irregular circle. At these dances, men, with much gesticulation and whooping, often dress themselves as women, as Gosavis, or as wild animals. Occasionally some of the dancers roll along the ground, join hands, and bound backwards and forwards keeping time to the music with a double shuffle or jigging movement of the feet. The musical instruments are, in the east of the Satpudas, a drum, *dhol*, and a bagpipe, *pavri*. The drum, *dhol*, is made of goat skin stretched over a hollow block of *Pterocarpus marsupium*, *bijarsal*, wood. The bagpipe, *pavri*, is a hollow pumpkin fixed on two hollow bamboos with lute-like holes, three in one and five in the other. To the end of the pipes is fastened a hollow bison or cow horn, and a hole is made in the neck of the pumpkin down which the Bhil blows, moving his fingers up and down over the lute-holes, and making a sound curiously like

the bagpipes. In the west Satpudas they use a kettledrum, *tur*, beaten with sticks and tambourine, *daf*."[1]

*Kukana Dances**—The Kukanas dance to the call of the seasons as well as in response to the imitation of their love. A little liquor and a moonlit night are sufficient to inspire them and their feet begin to move. The Kukanas take dancing seriously and put on better dress.

Men put on long gowns and round turbans and ornaments (as can be seen on Holi day). They stick tufts or peacock's feathers into their turbans. Girls beautify themselves by wearing new clothes and ornaments. They dance to the accompaniment of the *Tadapu* and *Shahnai*.

Dancing is an enjoyment in which the whole community—men and women, young and old—can share alike. Their dance takes an interesting formation, centering round a group of men, singers and drummers. This group stands in the middle of an open space and they begin to play upon their instruments.

Musical Instruments

The musical instruments are (1) Tadapu in the construction of which two gourds, four flutes and palm-tree leaves (called Chadu) are used, (2) Dholak, (3) Shahnai, (4) Madan, (5) Manjira and (6) brass-plate (Thali). Among these instruments, the Tadapu and Thali deserve special mention.

Tadapu

The Tadapu is a peculiar musical instrument of the Dangi Adivasis. About 4 feet in length, it is made of 3 parts. At the top is a dry gourd *tumbadi* hollowed from inside, on the top of which on one side is fixed the small mouth piece made from bamboo. The broad bottom end is joined with a couple of bamboo pipes of about one inch diameter and a foot in length. At the bottom of the pipes is fixed a horn hollowed from inside. The bamboo pipes in the middle have holes like the *murli* or *mahuwar* of the snake charmer. The joints are made leak-proof by fixing wax over them. The instrument is many times adorned by fixing peacock feathers on the top. The instrument is generally played between Diwali and Holi. It is held vertically and the expert player will go on playing it insensitively for hours, sometimes even for the whole night. Usually he goes on constantly shifting his position by a couple of steps instead of merely standing still probably to avoid fatigue. The Tadapu which has a sound like *murli* or *mahuwar* is played upon as an accompaniment to folk-dance.

1. Campbell J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. XII, *Khandesh*, 1880, p. 85.
* Shah P. G., *Tribal Life Lin Gujarat*, (1964), p. 243.

The expert player can himself prepare his own instrument and there is hardly any occasion for sale. It would cost him about Rs. 50.

Thali

Another instrument of interest is a simple reed played with the help of a bronze dish. This is used by the Kathakars or persons giving religious discourses who play on it as an accompaniment to their discourses which are given in a sing-song manner. The reed is selected by the player himself from the jungle and resembles Baru. The reed is about a meter in length and for the sake of protection it is carried in a hollow bamboo stick. The Kathakar squats on the ground keeping a bronze *thali* or dish in his lap. In the middle of this dish, he keeps the reed upright, fixing it to the *thali* with a little wax. He rubs the reed from top to bottom with his thumb and index finger to produce a musical sound. This is done by both the hands one after the other, and the tune necessarily is played on one pitch like a monotonous drone. It is very interesting to see the performance of the Kathakar. He is always accompanied by an assistant or disciple who plays a minor supporting role. The Kathakar goes on narrating stories of Ramayana. He is generally invited by his hosts to give discourses on special occasions and festivals and the discourse is selected in fitness to the occasion. For example, when called during the period of mourning after a departed relative he gives the discourse known as *salava* which is tragic and includes prayers for lasting peace and happiness to the departed soul. The discourse may go on as long as may be desired, and even for the whole night if the hosts wish to make *jagaran*.

The other instruments are *kahalya* which is like a *shahnai* and Madan which is a big two faced drum and small drums called *dholak*. The importance attached to these musical instruments and their players in the tribal life make them an integral part of it.

Types of Dances

In one of the formations, the dance is circular. A line of men having their arms on each other's waist goes round the musicians and women holding each other's waists circle round the men. They form a big circle round the men, and sometimes they go round clock-wise and then return anti-clockwise. They sometimes recede from or advance towards the musicians. The musician, the tadpawala while playing on his instrument, conducts the whole performance. Sometimes he produces certain base note suggesting a change in movements. They dance with great vigour and give out lusty cries intermittently. For sometimes, the circular movement proceeds very slowly and it appears that the stress now is on the movements of the feet or on the advancing and receding line. With the men and women having sufficiently warmed up, the circular movement proceeds rapidly.

It is said that previously they had still another formation. And the notable thing about it was that it was the only dance where men and women used to hold each other. The formation of the line was by alternate men and women, the men having their arms round the women's shoulders. and the women clasping the men by the waist. Thus they used to dance in a wide circle. But such dances are getting less frequent except in remote villages away from cities.

There is another formation which can be observed during a marriage and it cannot be called a marriage dance because other dances get mixed up in it. This dance is accompanied by the Shahnai and the drums. This is as much exciting as it is confusing. The dancers gather near the musicians and drummers and with their yells. the music begins and all begin to dance just where they are, bending low, stepping up and down very fast. Sometimes the women also do not lag behind in responding to the most obscene gestures of the men.

*Generally young men, women and children join the dance ; sometimes even adult males and females take part. All are very fond of dance irrespective of their ages. The adults and the aged give guidance to the dancers. There are different tunes for the different dances as also varied combinations of movements of the hands and the legs. The 'tunes' or as tribals call them the *chalos* themselves have different names given to them according to the steps involved or according to the bird or beast which the movements of the dancers try to imitate. There are about 27 such *chalos* or tunes. Such as, slow motion tune, two steps tune, three steps tune, wailing tune, the sparrow step tune, the crocodile step tune, chicken step tune, Jopio Chalo, Mohania Chalo, Momo Chalo, Bahino Chalo, Malino Chalo, Zavda Chalo, etc. The important types of dances are explained below :

Bahino Chalo

In this dance, the dancers form two batches of males and females and move towards musicians. Then first batch goes dancing towards the second batch, while the other batch goes backward dancing and stops in a line at one place. Then the first batch sits down kneeling at a distance of about 2 feet from the second, bows down, stands up and moves backward. Then the second batch moves forward with the first and stops at one place as before, then sits down kneeling, bows down, gets up and goes backward. In this manner, the dancing continues.

Malino Chalo

In this dance, from one circle, a separate circle of sturdy males is formed on whose shoulders, women climb with two legs on shoulders of

*Government of Gujarat, Director of Social Welfare, *Badapathi Vikastun Dang*, (1970).

different men. Thus, each male dancer will have one leg each of two different women. The women clasp the hands of other women and thus maintain the balance. Then the dance commences in a circular fashion. After dancing for sometime in the circular form, the females get down from the shoulders of the males and touch the males as a gesture of apology. This dance is very exciting and strenuous.

Thakarya Chalo

This dance is distinguished from other Dangi dances, because according to the tradition, this is performed only on certain days of the monsoon. It can be compared to the devotional dance. In this dance, Dholki and Kahalya are not used, but instead, a big drum or a big tin is used for trumpeting. In this dance, the dancers move in a circular form assuming the Virasan. First, they dance standing, then they dance bending and then with more force in Virasan. It is accompanied by songs. It is very strenuous and exhausting.

Bhacha Chalo

This is also a devotional and seasonal dance. It is performed at the time of worship of the Dungar Dev. This dance differs from other dances in that no one can join this dance without taking bath, and the dancer has to take meals once only. In this dance, Dholki and Kahalya are not used, but an instrument made out of gourd called Pavri is used. Every dancer has either a stick or a kerchief. All dancers sing short devotional songs and in between, they are shouting ' Bi-lo-ri-sho '. The Bilori means the boundary of stones or hill. The dancers remember names of gods and goddesses associated with them such as Gavalio Dev, Kansario Dev, Bhavani Devi, Divalia Dev. Thus, the names of gods residing in different hills are remembered during the dance.

All these dances are performed in the evening in villages. By dancing, the Dangis remove the tedium and exhaustion of the day. They refresh themselves by dancing. This has a very good effect upon their health.[1]

FOLK-SONGS

Although the Dangs district is geographically and socially isolated and inhabited by almost backward tribals, the tribal life is not without its joys of life. The tribal life is made worthwhile by its folk-songs and dances. According to late Shri P. G. Shah, the word folk-lore was first used to denote folk-traditions, festivals, songs and superstitions. Early study of folk-tales was motivated by a desire to find a rational explanation

1. Government of Gujarat, Director of Social Welfare, *Zaliopathi Vikasan Dang*, (1970).

for their often funny and fantastic contents. The modern study of folk-lore stresses equally its diffusion and acculturation, the study of geographical distribution of tales and the absorption of local cultural material into tribal mythology. Modern folk-loristic study attempts to free itself from preconceptions and from far-fetched allegories and is founding itself upon the importance of folk-lore as a social phenomenon and as a means of expression by a social group of its own attitudes and cultural life.[1] Under the impact of the modern civilisation, the folk-lore is gradually losing its importance, but its study is essential for better understanding of the origin of the present social form and its development. The folk-songs reflect the aims and aspirations, hopes and frustrations, trials and tribulations of the people in various walks of life. It is more so with the Dangis, who in poverty, ignorance and illiteracy still live a cultural life of their own.

An attempt was, therefore, made to collect as many folk-songs as possible from the Dangs district. About a dozen songs have been collected. They are classified into marriage songs, festival songs and other songs depicting various activities of life. The few folk-songs which are dealt with here show a growing tendency towards modernisation in the trend of thoughts and aspirations and often in the manner of expression. The Dangis, who come into contact with the farming communities and the substantial landholders in the adjacent areas have absorbed some elements of their culture.

Marriage Songs

1. As in other communities, marriage and married life provide much material for the folk-songs. The following lines of the folk-song gives expression of the pent-up feelings of a lonely unmarried girl, who has come of age and longs for a life companion. Although she prepares bread, fetches water, pounds paddy and grinds foodgrains, she does not get satisfaction from life. She suffers from oppressive loneliness. The lines are :

મોટે ઘરમાં દોન દારાં, દારાં મખી મા એકલી વ.
મોટે ઘરમાં દોન ચૂલા, ભાનસ કરં મા એકલી વ.

મોટે ઘરમાં દોન ગુંડા, પાની ભરાં મા એકલી વ.
મોટે ઘરમાં દોન ઉખળાં, કાંડન કરાં મા એકલી વ.

મોટે ઘરમાં તીન ખોલીઆં, ખોલીઆં મધી મા એકલી વ.
મોટા ઘરમાં દોન ઘરટી, દળન કરાં મા એકલી વ.

2. A young girl stays with her brother, who is capable of moving in a palanquin, is a bus conductor and travels in cities like Bombay and Surat.

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1. SHAH P. G., *Tribal Life in Gujarat*, (1964), p. 221.

She is quite happy at her father's place, but she remembers her lover Bhima and pines for him. The song runs as under.

એક ભીમા ભીમા કરું, એક ભીમા ભીમા કરું
માના ભાઉ, ભાઉ ડ્રેબી વર

માના ભાઉ, ભાઉ આહવા શે'રાત
એક ભીમા ભીમા કરું.

માના ભાઉ, ભાઉ કિલીન્ડર
એક ભીમા ભીમા કરું.

માના ભાઉ, ભાઉ સૂરત શે'રાત
એક ભીમા ભીમા કરું.

માના ભાઉ, ભાઉ મુંબઈ શે'રાત
એક ભીમા ભીમા કરું.

This song reveals also the modernisation in the occupational concepts of Dangis. A Dangi girl holds in high esteem a brother who is even a bus conductor.

3. How a Dangi girl is overwhelmed with joy on hearing about a demand for her hand is expressed in the following song. She dances with joy in the hope that after marriage, she will be able to put on the best clothes, eat the best dishes, enjoy swing in the house of the in-laws and will rule in her husband's house.

માગલે જી રે, વરી વ. થાળો કા રખમા બાઈ !
માઈના રાજા, મી ત, મી ત, જેવીન દૂધ ભાત.

બાપના રાજા, મીં ત, મી ત, બસીન પાળન્યાંત
માગલે જી રે.

ભાઉના રાજા, મી ત, મી ત, નીસીન પીળાં પાંત
માગલે જી રે

ભવજીના રાજા, મી ત, મી ત, હીંડીન હવલીત
માગલે જી રે.

Love Song

4. A young wife calls her husband as *jamadar*. The husband holds an umbrella over her to protect her from heat. She tells her husband that as she is thirsty and hungry, she feels very uncomfortable. She, therefore, requests her husband to provide food and water. She appears to be satisfied

with her husband. This is a song of a happy marital life. It may be noted that the Dangis generally carry umbrellas with them as an inseparable accident of life.

છત્રી ધરી રે જમાદાર વા રે વા.
છત્રી ધરી ધરી તાન બી લાગલી
　　છત્રી ધરી રે જમાદાર, વા રે વા.
×　　　×　　　×
બારવાં ખોદી ખોદી તીસ બી લાગલી
　　છત્રી ધરી રે જમાદાર, વા રે વા.

Mal-adjustment in married life

5. The following song is indicative of mal-adjustment between husband and wife. The young wife is not satisfied with the behaviour of her old husband and she is attracted to a village school-master. However, she blames her own fate and regrets as to how she will pass life with her old husband.

×　　　×　　　×
દારાંની આંબા, લાગલા મથારે, નવરા લાગલા,
અસી કસી જિંદગાની નવરા મતારા, મા નોકરીઆ.
　　ઘરામાં હરિ ખાંડન કરી,
×　　　×　　　×
શાળીના ભા......ત, ચનતીલા, માસ્તર નવરા ગમતીલા,
અસી કસી જિંદગાની, નવરા મતારા, મા નોકરીઆ.
　　ઘરમાં હરિ ખાંડન કરી.

6. Two or three young Dangi married girls who do not get enough food and other daily necessities of life in their father-in-laws' house are thinking of decamping or absconding. The song reveals the poverty of the Dangi people and the resultant dissatisfaction of the young married girls.

×　　　×　　　×
ચલા જાઉં રાગી, રાગી ના વ, છુ છુ છુ.
નવરાને ઘર દાળ ની મીળ, મીળ ના વ, છુ છુ છુ.
ચલા જાઉં રાગી, રાગી ના વ, છુ છુ છુ.
નવરાને ઘર નાગલી ની મીળ, મીળ ના વ, છુ છુ છુ.
×　　　×　　　×
ચલા જાઉં રાગી, રાગી ના વ, છુ છુ છુ.
નવરાને ઘર તેલ ની મીળ, મીળ ના વ, છુ છુ છુ.
×　　　×　　　×

Evil Effects of Liquor

7. The following song reveals how a liquor addict ruins the marriage life. A married woman says that her husband is a gentlemen. If he holds

the position of a range-forest officer, a round forest officer, a teacher or any Government officer, she can pull on with him. But unfortunately if he gets addicted to liquor, her life will be ruined. This shows that the Dangi woman is against the drinking habit. Secondly, she imagines her husband in various positions as forest officer or Government officer or a school teacher because she comes in contact with these officials only.

હાથી દારૂના પેલા રે, રસ્તામાં ઢુલતપ ચાલે.
ડ્રાયવર નવરા કેલા રે, રાજેને મારી માલે.
કિલીન્ડર નવરા કેલા રે, રાજેને મારી માલે.
× × ×
માસ્તર નવરા કેલા રે, રાજેને મારી માલે
સાહેબ નવરા કેલા રે, રાજેને મારી માલે
હાથી દારૂના પેલા રે, રસ્તામાં ઢુલતપ ચાલે.

Farewell to a married girl

8. At the time of farewell to the married girl from her parents' residence, her relatives advise her to give up the attachment of mother and father and try to develop love and affection towards her mother-in-law and father-in-law, sister-in-law and brother-in-law. Thus, she is advised to adjust herself to the new environments.

નીળી સારુંગી મોતીએ ભરો પાની વ.
આતાં છોડા વ માઈની માયા વ.
આતાં ધરા વ સાસુની માયા વ.
આતાં છોડા વ બાપાની માયા વ.
આતાં ધરા વ સાસરાની માયા વ.
આતાં છોડા વ બહિનીની માયા વ.
આતાં ધરા વ નનંદીની માયા વ.
આતાં છોડા વ ભાઉની માયા વ.
આતાં ધરા વ જેઠુની માયા વ.

9. When the tender married girl is to be sent to her father-in-law's place, her parents feel anxiety about the health of their daughter. They, therefore, request the parents of the bride-groom that she should not be asked to grind corn at night, to fetch water from deep valleys, to pound paddy at night particularly the Kamod variety and prepare breads at night.

ઉલુકસી વહુ, વહુ માઈ, ઉલુકસી વહુ વહુ વ.
કનેજ ગામમાં પરણાવે ગઈ,
× × ×
રાત્રીના દળન દળન માઈ, રાત્રીના દળન દળન વ.
દળન નોકો લાવું, લાવું, માઈ દળન નોકો લાવું લાવું વ. ...ઉલુકસી
દરડીનાં પાની પાની માઈ, દરડીનાં પાની પાની વ.
પાની નોકો લાવું લાવું, માઈ, પાની નોકો લાવું. ...ઉલુકસી
× × ×

Songs of the Holi Festival

10. The Holi festival is the most important festival among the tribals. The celebration starts 10 days earlier and lasts 5 days after the Holi proper. During this period, they hold dancing bouts and encourage free songs among the young. On this occasion, the Darbar fair is held at Ahwa where the Dangis make all purchases for the year. Young boys and girls find opportunity to select their partners of life. In celebration of this festival, formerly liquor was freely used. With the prohibition propaganda, its use has gradually diminished. This festival is recorded in several songs below :

૧. કનચે મહિને ઉનીસો,
ફાગુન મહિને ઉનીસો,
બાઈ ફાગુન મહિને ઉનીસો,
× × ×
કાય કાય ભેટ લસીલો ?
પાપડ ભેટ લસીલો
બાઈ પાપડ ભેટ લસીલો.

કાય કાય ભેટ લસીલો ?
તોરણ ભેટ લસીલો
બાઈ તોરણ ભેટ લસીલો.

૨. હોળે ગ બાડડઈ ભોળે તું
સદા શીમગા ખેળે તું
એ હોળીલા મનાવસું
પહિલીચ પાપડી ચડાવસું
હોળે ગ બાડડઈ ....ખેળે તું......
એ હોળીલા મનાવસું
પહિલાચ તોરણ ચઢાવસું

Gorai Festival

11. Like other Hindu unmarried girls celebrating the Gauri festival, the tribal girls also celebrate the 'Gorai' festival. Five types of seeds are sown in a bamboo basket filled with mud of the river. Unmarried girls look after this basket and on the 8th day this 'Gorai' is ceremoniously submerged in the river. There are two songs relating to this festival which are given below :

૧. ચાલવ ગોરાઈ ઝણ ઝણ
બાઈ ઝણ ઝણ
ચાલતેવ મામજી (સસરો) ચાલતે
બાઈ ચાલતે
× × ×
લવુન ઘાલ ગોરાઈ
તેહુન ઘડવું સવાઈ

૨. પાંચ કાવાવ (હેચ) ફિરવા
    બાઇ પાંચ કાવાવ ફિરવા

ઊડી સરસી બુડવી
    બાઇ ઊડી સરસી બુડવી

વર્ષા માંગા જ નિગલી
    બાઈ વર્ષા માંગા જ નિગલી

The young unmarried girls celebrate this festival with joy and abandon. Songs and dances are inseparable in this festival.

There are a number of songs which give the glimpses of various activities of the tribals, namely, agricultural operations, education, etc. Some of the songs are as under :

12. *Education*—In the following song, the mother is sitting with her child in her lap. She tells the child the story of his elder brother, who was admitted in the school at Waghai and was taught arithmatic tables. He committed a mistake in figures and was beaten by the teacher. As a result, the boy fled from the school and returned home. This song depicts the poor state of education as well as the attitude of the teachers in those times.

સુખ ચાંદની તુ બાઇ,
માંડી વટી તાન્યા બાળ.
તેના નામ મોતીરામ
તેલા ટાકા વધઈ શાળમાં
ધડા દીધા સંભરે ના
એક આંકડા ચૂક હતા
તાંહાં માસ્તર માર હતા
તાંહાં ઘર પોળી આના
સુખ ચાંદની તું બાઇ.

13. *Agriculture*—In the following song, the tribal cultivators are anxiously waiting for rains. If it rains, they would be able to sow wheat and other crops like *nagli*, paddy, maize and vegetables. Normally, the Dangis raise crops like *nagli*, *vari* and other inferior crops. Now with rains and other facilities provided by Government, it is proposed to sow wheat. This shows growing modernisation in agriculture.

પાની કા વરસીલ, ગારુંની પાની પાની ગ.
ગહૂ કા પીરુ વ, રસાળ જમીનમાવ વ.
ગહૂ કા વારવુ વ, સુરવે તાપે ખાલી વ.
પાની કા વરસીલ, ગારુંની પાની પાની ગ.

The Religious Song

14. The following song depicts the impact of Hinduism on the Dangis and particularly about the love of Rama, Sita and Hanuman. It mentions that Ramchandra plucks Champa flower before they wilt. Sita prepares two wreaths of these flowers. Sita and Rama put wreaths round the neck of Hanuman. This song shows that both Rama and Sita loved Hanuman to the point of reverence. It is a patent fact the Dangis love and worship Hanuman so much so that in every village, there is a stone or wood carving of Hanuman.

ચાંપા કાય વ કોમે, ચાપા કાય વ કોમે, ચાંપા કાય વ કોમે.

× × ×

સીતા માળી ગુફ, સીતા માળી ગુફ, સીતા માળી ગુફ.
પહલી વ માળ, પહલી વ માળ, પહલી વ માળ, ...ચાંપા

હનવતાને ગળ, હનવતાને ગળ, હનવતાને ગળ
માગલીવ માળ, માગલીવ માળ, માગલીવ માળ.

× × ×

To sum-up, the folk-songs of the Dangis are expressions of their customs, traditions and way of life. Among them, marriage songs occupy the pride of place, as marriage substantially affects their lives as in any other communities. They depict mal-adjustment, in married life, a bride's sadness on separation, liquor ruining married life, etc. They also deal with a school-going Dangi boy at Waghai, cultivation of crops like wheat, *nagli*, *vari*, etc., and the contact with Forest and other Government officials and the village school-master in the daily life. This shows modernisation that is being brought by the development programmes under the Five Year Plans.

In the absence of an alternative source of enjoyment or entertainment, festivals provide an easy means of recreation, social contact and entertainment. Festivals are always made more enjoyable by dances of various types accompanied by tribal musical instruments. Festivals of the Holi, the Akhatij, and the Gorai provide immense fun and frolic in the otherwise drab and dry life of the Dangis.

Source :

*Gujarat Rajya Lok-Sahitya Samiti, Ahmedabad, *Gujarati Lok-Sahityamala, Manko*-11, (1969), pp. 188-201.

†Janmabhumi, 30th March, 1967, Bombay.

CHAPTER XVI

MEDICAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

SURVEY OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND MEDICAL FACILITIES

Prior to Independence, the medical and public health services in the Dangs district were very much deficient. The inhabitants lived in a backward state. Lack of education among the Dangis was mainly responsible for their belief in the treatment by the *bhuwas* and the *bhagats*. These witch doctors and sorcerers also made free use of herbal medicines in curing diseases. The Dangs Diwan issued licences to the *bhagats* to carry on their profession. People used to summon these *bhagats* for curing their diseases. On account of dense forests, hills and valleys, roads could not be constructed in the past. People had to travel long distances by carts or on horseback for medical treatment. Such journeys through thick forests were unsafe and people had to remain vigilant as chances of attacks by wild beasts were many. It was very difficult for the people to get vegetables, foodgrains and medicines in the absence of good communication facilities. Influenza, malaria and typhoid took heavy toll of lives. Being ignorant and superstitious, the spread of epidemics was attributed by them to the wrath of some local deity or goddess.

With the passage of time, things began to change. The activities of the Missionaries in the Dangs from the West helped a great deal in dispelling the fears and superstitions of the people. Missionaries, who came to the Dangs in the first decade of this century supplied medicines at their cost to the needy people and even administered treatment to women patients and treated delivery cases also. Their fame spread far and wide and people in large numbers flocked to them for seeking medical relief. The Missionaries thus paved the way for the establishment of centres providing modern medical treatment. By 1941, two Government dispensaries were functioning at Ahwa and Waghai for administering medical treatment to the people of the district. Sanitary Committees were organised gradually. The Medical Officers in charge of these dispensaries were appointed secretaries of these committees and were entrusted with the supervision of health and sanitation work.

After the merger of Dangs into the Indian Union in 1948, Government took systematic steps to expand medical and public health facilities in this part of the country. The increasing attendance at the dispensaries in contrast to the lean figures of pre-merger Dangs when the inhabitants had some sort of phoebia towards allopathic treatment, created the necessity for a full-fledged hospital at the headquarters. Accordingly, the Central Hospital was started at Ahwa in the year 1950. It has become very popular in the

Dangs. The rate at which medical facilities have expanded since Independence in this district can be seen from the following statement.

Item	1950	1952	1955	1965	1967	1968	1969
Hospitals	..	1	1	1	1	1	1
Dispensaries ..	2	2	2	2	3	4	4
Primary Health Centres	..	..	..	2	2	2	2
Beds (Hospitals, Dispensaries and Health Centres)	4	31	73	96	102	102	102

On the health side too, the Government took prompt measures to control epidemics and check the diseases by appointing Vaccinators and other staff to implement vaccination programme and to carry on propaganda and publicity. Two Mobile Hygiene Units were sanctioned with headquarters at Ahwa. Each unit consisted of one Epidemic Medical Officer, one Sanitary Inspector, two Sanitary Orderlies, one Driver and one Cleaner. They provided rural medical aid for minor ailments at the very doors of the villagers and carried out D. D. T. spraying operations in the villages. They also did propaganda on health matters with the help of films, posters and lectures. Distribution of vitamin tablets to expectant and nursing mothers and others suffering from malnutrition was also entrusted to these units. A Maternity and Child Health Centre was started at Subir to provide domiciliary service to the Dangi women.

Malaria was a very dreadful disease in the Dangs. Steps were, therefore, taken to eradicate the disease by setting up two mobile units, each comprising a Doctor, a Sanitary Inspector and other servants. These persons visited every village and apart from spraying the area with D. D. T., also distributed anti-malaria drugs and vitamin tablets among the people. The Malaria Control Unit set up at Sinad (Surat district) under the National Malaria Eradication Programme functioned in the Dangs also. As a result of these efforts, malaria was almost wiped out from the district. These and other measures taken by Government are described in the pages that follow.

VITAL STATISTICS

The following statistics regarding births, deaths and survival rates give broad indication of general trends and natural increase in population in the district between 1965 and 1968.

Year	Birth-rate per thousand	Death-rate per thousand	Natural increase in population	Death-rate for infants per thousand live births
1	2	3	4	5
1965	40.9	11.8	29.1	67
1966	41.0	11.5	29.5	58
1967	34.0	12.7	21.3	57
1968	33.4	12.5	20.9	70

Source :

Directorate of Health and Medical Services, Ahmedabad.

These figures reveal that while the birth-rate has shown an appreciable decline, the death-rate has remained more or less steady and the natural increase in population has registered a steep fall. This may be due to implementation of various measures of public health such as family planning and improvement in the registration of vital statistics.

COMMON DISEASES

Common diseases in the district are small-pox, fevers, dysentery and diarrhoea, cholera and diseases of the respiratory system. The causes of deaths are indicated below.

Sl. No.	Cause of death	No. of deaths 1967	1968
1	Cholera	..	..
2	Small-pox	2	2
3	Plague	..	..
4	Fevers	187	216
5	Dysentery and diarrhoea	192	166
6	Respiratory system	57	45
7	Wild beasts	..	1
8	Snake-bite	4	18
9	Rabies	..	..
10	All other causes	659	669
	Total	1,101	1,117

Source :
Directorate of Health and Medical Services, Ahmedabad.

As compared to the year 1967, deaths in 1968 were a little higher. Barring deaths under all other causes (669), fevers were the main cause of death and claimed by far the largest number of lives (216). Other diseases commonly reported were those of the dysentery and diarrhoea and respiratory system, jointly accounting for 211 lives. Many deaths occur due to snake-bites every year. In 1968, 18 persons died of snake-bites. Diseases like plague and cholera have been completely brought under control as a result of various preventive and prophylactic measures taken by Government described later in this chapter.

HOSPITALS AND DISPENSARIES

Organisational Set-up of the Medical Department

The Directorate of Health and Medical Services is divided into two sections—medical and health. On the medical side, the Director is assisted by two Deputy Directors, one of whom is placed in charge of Medical Education and the other looks after hospitals, nursing schools, mental

hospitals, cancer hospital, opthalmic institute, etc. On the health side, he is assisted by a Deputy Director in charge of public health and inspection of health institutions like health centres, public health laboratories, etc., except family planning and also by the functional Assistant Directors of Public Health in charge of different health programmes implemented through the Health Officers at the district level. As Family Planning Programme and Maternal and Child Health Services have been assigned priority in the State, a Joint Director of Public Health Services at the headquarters is placed specially in charge of the programme. The District Health Officers and the District Family Planning Officers have been assigned the duty of implementing the family planning programme at the district level. Further, a full-time Deputy Director of Public Health looks after the Malaria-Filaria Eradication schemes at the State headquarters and functions through the Regional Malaria Officers and the Unit Officers working in the districts.

In the Dangs district, the Panchayati Raj[1] has still not been introduced and the set-up here is slightly different from other districts in the State. The Civil Surgeon, Ahwa, looks after both the preventive and curative sides. He also functions as the District Health Officer for the Dangs district and has to implement all medical and public health activities including family planning. He is assisted by a squad of Sanitary Inspectors and Vaccinators and other staff in the implementation of the different health programmes. He is directly subordinate to the Director of Health and Medical Services, Ahmedabad. He exercises control over all the subordinate staff on the medical and health sides in the district and is also responsible for their discipline and proper performance of duties.

The hospitals and dispensaries controlled by the Civil Surgeon in the Dangs district are listed below :

1 The Central Hospital, Ahwa,
2 The Silver Jubilee Dispensary, Waghai,
3 The Government Ayurvedic Dispensary, Subir,
4 The Government Dispensary, Saputara,
5 The Mobile Dispensary, Shamgahan,
6 The Primary Health Centre, Kalibel,
7 The Primary Health Centre, Sakarpatal.

Central Hospital, Ahwa—The dispensary at Ahwa was known as the Sampson Dispensary and till 1950 had accommodation for four indoor patients only. This was inadequate as a large number of the Dangis had been taking advantage of the dispensary. The Dangis had realised that the so-called spiritual healers (*bhuwas* and *bhagats*) knew very little of medicines. The ever-increasing attendance in the dispensary necessitated the

1. Steps are being taken recently to introduce the Panchayati Raj at the village level.

establishment of a modern hospital for providing scientific treatment and quick relief to the people from the ailments. Thus, the Central Hospital with a capacity of 20 beds was established at Ahwa in the year 1952. Since the hospital building was found inadequate to accommodate increased number of patients, a new spacious building was constructed at an estimated cost of Rs. 3 lakhs in the year 1955, when another 42 beds were added. Thus, at the end of the First Five Year Plan, the indoor accommodation consisted of 62 beds. In 1964, an up-to-date X-ray machine was installed in the hospital at an expenditure of Rs. 1·03 lakhs. For the treatment of infectious diseases like leprosy, a 12-bedded isolation ward was started in 1965. Similarly a 20-bedded children's ward was started in 1967. Thus, the total number of beds at present available in the hospital is 94. A pathological laboratory has been started in the hospital, which carries out routine laboratory investigations. One anti-rabic centre and facilities for operations are also available in the hospital. An ambulance van is also provided to carry serious cases to the hospital. As this is the only full-fledged hospital, it is proposed to add 50 more beds during the Fourth Five Year Plan.

In 1961, this hospital was upgraded to be in charge of an official of the Gujarat Medical Service Class I. He works as the Superintendent of the Central Hospital and as Civil Surgeon for the district. He is assisted by one Medical Officer belonging to the Gujarat Medical Service Class II and two Medical Officers belonging to the Gujarat Medical Service Class III, of whom one is a Lady Medical Officer. The Medical Officer Class II has to work also as Resident Medical Officer of the Hospital. Besides the laboratory and X-ray technicians, nurses, ward-boys, compounders, etc., are also provided in the hospital.

The new hospital building has been fully equipped with modern equipments. It has medical and surgical wards, children's ward, maternity ward, up-to-date operation theatre, special rooms, X-ray and pathological laboratory. It has a newly built post-mortem room in the hospital compound. The hospital is capable of providing treatment to all types of diseases. An Auxiliary Nurse Midwife Training School to train student nurses has also been started from March, 1969 in the hospital. The Out-patients Department is functioning as a separate department since 1952 wherein the clinical side room, injection and dressing rooms are provided for the facility of outdoor patients.

The total number of patients treated both indoor and outdoor during the last five years is stated below :

Year			Indoor	Outdoor
1965	..	..	4,602	17,031
1966	..	..	3,527	19,509
1967	..	..	2,896	17,276
1968	..	..	2,833	17,230
1969	..	..	3,759	20,210

The above figures indicate that the Dangis are now taking medical treatment more and more in preference to that provided by the *bhuwas* and *bhagats*.

The expenditure incurred has risen from Rs. 2·24 lakhs in 1965-66 to Rs. 3·21 lakhs in 1969-70.

Since the economic condition of the Dangis is very poor, Government has provided free medical treatment both to indoor and outdoor patients. Besides, free ambulance service is made easily available to the tribals for bringing serious cases from the villages to the Central Hospital, Ahwa.

The Auxiliary Nurse Midwife Training School, Ahwa—In order to provide nurses willing to serve in the backward areas and also to encourage local girls to take training in nursing, the State Government has started the Auxiliary Nurse Midwife Training School at the Central Hospital, Ahwa from March, 1969. Seven candidates were admitted in first batch. Second batch of 8 candidates was admitted in the School in July, 1969. The total number of candidates trained in this School is 15 of which 12 are Adivasis including two Dangi girls, one Christian and two of other castes.

The staff sanctioned for the school consists of 1 Matron, 1 Sister Tutor, 1 Sister, 1 Staff Nurse, and 2 Class IV servants.

Number of Doctors—According to the Census of 1951, the total number of doctors in the district was 15 of whom 11 were males and 4 females. The 1961 Census showed decrease in the number of doctors which stood at 10 (all males). In terms of population served, there was one doctor for every 7,157 persons in 1961, as against 3,152 persons in 1951.

Public Health

Administrative Set-up—As stated earlier, the Public Health Department is headed by the Director of Health and Medical Services, who advises Government in all matters concerning public health administration in the State. He is assisted by one Deputy Director of Public Health Services in charge of malaria, filaria, leprosy, maternity and child welfare and health education There is also one Joint Director for Family Planning and Maternity and Child Welfare for the whole State. For the administration of Public Health measures, each district has a full-time District Health Officer. The District Health Officer is in charge of the health institutions and Ayurvedic dispensaries in the district. The main activities of the Public Health Department are : (1) preventive and curative measures, (2) vaccination, (3) T. B. control, (4) malaria control, (5) trachoma control, (6) improvement in vital statistics, (7) improvement in birth and death registration, (8) maternity and child welfare, (9) family planning, (10) venereal

diseases and nutritional deficiency diseases control, and (11) environmental sanitation programme.

In performing the public health activities, the District Health Officer is assisted by a squad of Sanitary Inspectors and Vaccinators and other staff. The District Health Officer organises measures for public sanitation and hygiene at fairs and festivals and also investigates the causes of origin and spread of infectious diseases such as cholera, small-pox, whooping cough, plague, etc. He advises the Government in matters connected with health, sanitation, and water supply; inspects primary health centres, maternity and child welfare centres, allopathic dispensaries, Ayurvedic dispensaries, family planning centres and guides implementation of the National Malaria Eradication Programme and trachoma control, disinfection of drinking water and infected materials, construction of soak-pits and latrines suitable for rural areas and removal of manure heaps from inhabited localities. Vaccination and revaccination on a large scale are being carried out by a squad of Sanitary Inspectors and Vaccinators, who work under the supervision of the District Health Officer.

EPIDEMICS

In the absence of integrated public health services, epidemics like small-pox, malaria, cholera, plague, etc., took a heavy toll. Since Independence, Government has adopted several measures for the control and eradication of these epidemics by spraying D. D. T., vaccination and revaccination, collection of blood smears and survey of affected and threatened areas and prompt notification of small-pox and malaria cases. These measures have helped considerably to combat the epidemics and substantially brought down mortality which was very high in the past.

Malaria—The National Malaria Control Scheme was introduced in this district in 1946-47. In the initial stages, D. D. T. was sprayed for controlling the epidemic. For implementation of the National Malaria Eradication Programme, the Dangs district was placed under the Bulsar unit of the N. M. E. Programme. The programme was started from the year 1959. Every year 2-3 rounds of insecticidal residual spray of D. D. T./B. H. C. are carried out. The surveillance operation was started in the Dangs district from the year 1960. For mosquito control, all the houses in Ahwa were sprayed twice a month with a solution of D. D T. in red kerosene oil. The staff of the unit carry out house to house survey every fortnight. Patients are examined and all fever cases are given presumptive treatment with 4-Aminoquinoline. The blood smears collected are examined in laboratory and if found positive, radical treatment is administered with 8 Aminoquinoline for five days in the presence of surveillance staff. In the year 1969 an Epidemiological project was conducted at Kalibel by a WHO Epidemiologist in collaboration with Regional Deputy Director, Regional Co-ordinating

Organisation, Baroda and the State authorities. As a result of the survey, it was observed that local vector species were found resistant tolerant to insecticides-D. D. T./B. H. C. In view of this, Malathion Spray operations were conducted in the Dangs district in the year 1970.

Small-pox—Small-pox even today ranks as one of the most important causes of blindness. In order to bring the disease under effective control, the programme of vaccination was undertaken on a mass scale. Before Independence no special efforts were made for control of small-pox in this district on account of its being an Adivasi area. Only one Vaccinator was available for the whole district. He could not cover all the 311 villages of the district. Due to this, outbreak of the small-pox was very frequent. In the year of 1946, two more posts of Vaccinators were sanctioned. With the help of three Vaccinators, preventive work of small-pox was organised systematically. One Sanitary Inspector was appointed in the year 1952 to supervise the work of Vaccinators. As a result, the preventive work became more effective. On account of increase in the staff, it became possible to undertake efficient control measures immediately on receipt of information. Government desired to give adequate medical aid to the Adivasi areas and for this purpose, a Primary Health Centre was established at Kalibel. The Sanitary Inspector of primary health centre was entrusted with this work. Because of the extensive area of the district, it is not possible for three Vaccinators to visit villages frequently.

The National Small-pox Eradication Programme has been started by Government of Gujarat from 1962. The scheme was implemented during the year 1963-64 in the district. After the completion of the programme, two more Vaccinators working for the scheme were allotted to this district and one more Primary Health Centre was established at Sakarpatal village. Thereafter, seven centres were established for small-pox programme and each centre was allotted a particular area of the district and thus the whole district was covered in seven divisions. Due to this distribution, each Vaccinator is able to visit one village once within 2 or 3 months. Progress achieved in the direction is shown below :

Year		Small-pox attacks	Deaths	Primary vaccination	Re-vaccination
1961	..	16	..	3,522	9,846
1963	..	..	..	4,296	10,265
1965	..	13	1	3,586	9,396
1967	..	2	..	3,397	9,821
1968	..	2	1	3,251	16,244

Source :

District Health Officer, Dangs, Ahwa.

It appears from the statement that the incidence of the small-pox in this district is very low, as a result of concerted efforts made by Government to combat the epidemic.

Tuberculosis—Tuberculosis is a serious disease and Government has instituted a programme of B. C. G. vaccination, which makes it possible to give immunity from the disease for a considerable period. There is an Assistant Director of Public Health at the State headquarters in charge of B. C. G. vaccination and T. B. Control Scheme. Poor hygiene, poverty and ignorance are responsible for this disease in the district. The patients are very poor but the incidence of tuberculosis is not very high. Prior to 1964, when the facilities of X-ray examination and laboratory tests were not available in the district, the needy patients were referred to the Civil Hospital, Surat and financial aid was given by the Social Welfare Department and the District Local Board. The T. B. Clinic, Surat is giving all the assistance in this district and the T. B. Officer, Surat visits this district and gives guidance to the two centres at Ahwa and Waghai.

Trachoma—Trachoma is a serious eye disease, but its incidence is low in this district. There is no Government unit or voluntary organisation in the district.

Leprosy—Leprosy is a chronic infectious disease affecting skin and nerves. This is one of the major diseases in the Dangs district and has affected many villages. In order to bring the disease under effective control, the programme of survey, education and treatment was undertaken at four centres at Ahwa, Waghai, Shamgahan and Subir. These units are functioning since 1966. Leprosy Assistants working in this scheme conduct survey and give guidance to the village-people. They also attend the clinic and sub-clinics within their jurisdiction. Hence entire Dangs district is covered by the project and out-project areas for taking effective control measures. One isolation ward with a capacity of four beds is attached to Central Hospital, Ahwa. Progress achieved in the direction is shown below :

Year			No. of cases	No. of cases treated
1959	..	..	139	25
1963	..	..	194	192
1965	..	..	208	208
1968	..	..	344	342
1969	..	..	399	324

It appears from the statement that the number of cases under treatment has increased. In the year 1959, there were 139 cases, out of which

only 25 cases were under treatment. Subsequently the number of cases under treatment increased to 342 in the year 1968. There is urgent need to undertake effective measures for eradication of leprosy.

Family Planning Programme—Rapid increase in population has become a matter of serious concern to Government. Whatever gains accrue from the implementation of the Five Year Plans, are wiped out by the terrific population growth which in case of the Dangs is higher than any other district of the State. The rate of population growth in the Dangs district during the decade, 1951-61, is 5·2 per cent which is approximately double the State figure which is 2·6 per cent. With a view to arresting this abnormal population growth, the family planning programme is being vigorously implemented all over the State. It now forms a very important plank of the district health programme.

At the State level, a Family Planning Bureau was set up in 1964 at Ahmedabad under the Joint Director of Health. At the district level, there is the District Health Officer who organises the work of family planning with the help of Block Extension Educator and other health staff. The family planning centres give guidance and distribute contraceptives among the needy married couples. The recent innovation in the field of family planning is the introduction of I. U. C. D. (Intra Uterine Contraceptive Device) known as 'Lippes Loop' which is made of polythylene and shaped like double 'S', with nylon threads at the lower end. For want of intensive propaganda and lack of knowledge on the part of the Dangis concerning the benefits of planned parenthood in the past, sufficient progress could not be achieved in this field. The strength of family planning workers was also small. Till 1964, only two workers were attached to the family planning centres at Kalibel and Subir. After 1964, the work gathered momentum after appointment of the District Family Planning Medical Officer and four field workers.

Besides the Central Hospital at Ahwa providing Family Planning Services, the Government dispensaries at Waghai, Subir, Bardipada and Shamgahan also render services and advice relating to family planning. The two Primary Health Centres at Kalibel and Sakarpatal also perform sterilisation operations, IUCD insertions and distribution of condoms.

Trere are at present 15 family planning centres at Waghai, Shamgahan, Subir, Pipalaidevi, Kalibel. Mahal. Laochali. Pipaldahad, Sakarpatal, Manmodi, Borkhal. Chinchli, Galkund, Rambhas and Pimpri. They are manned by field workers, auxiliary field workers, and auxiliary midwives. They tender advice and distribute contraceptives to the needy people. As a result of intensive work, the progress achieved in family planning in recent years is quite noteworthy. Between 1965-66 and 1969-70 (upto November.

1969), 5,537 vasectomy and 114 tubectomy operations were performed. The number of loops inserted was 2,006 during this period.1

Primary Health Centres—Because of the non-availability of trained nurses and midwives prior to integration, the health of women was seriously impaired during the pre-natal and post-natal stages, as the work was performed by untrained indigenous *dais* with the result that death rate among women and infants was comparatively high. With the implementation of the Five Year Plans, increasing attention is being paid to the training of nurses and establishment of Primary Health Centres, maternity and child welfare centres and subsidised health centres.

The United Nations Organisation, working through its various agencies, promotes social and economic well-being in underdeveloped countries of the world by providing financial and technical assistance. One such international agency is the UNICEF which helps in protecting health of expectant and nursing mothers by supplying expert advice and skimmed milk powder which is distributed by the Panchayat and Health Department through the primary health centres.

Primary health centres and sub-centres provide basic health services in rural areas as well as maternity and child health services in an integrated manner and also perform preventive and curative functions. Every primary health centre in the district is provided with one Medical Officer, one health visitor, generally four midwives, one for the main centre and three for sub-centres, one Sanitary Inspector, one driver, two male peons and one female peon, one sweeper, one compounder and three part-time attendants.

There are two rural family planning centres, one attached to each primary health centre, and three sub-centres attached to each primary health centre.

There are two primary centres and six sub-centres in the district. The primary health centres are located at Kalibel and Sakarpatal. Three sub-centres Waghai, Shamgahan and Subir are attached to the primary health centre, Kalibel and three sub-centres Rambhas, Pimpri and Galkund are attached to the primary health centre at Sakarpatal.

There are two Maternity and Child Health Centres in the district, one at Waghai and the other at Subir. They are run by the staff of primary health centres, sub-centres and nurse, midwives working under the Family Planning Bureau.

Health Education—The success of any programme depends upon the willing co-operation and participation of the people for whom it is meant.

1. District Health Officer, Dangs.

Health education component has always remained one of the important factors in the total activity of the health programme. With this end in view, health education is imparted by the District Health Officer, Health Educator and District Extension Educators of the family planning scheme, through group talks amongst the village people. The State Governmnt has started the State Health Education Bureau under an Assistant Director of Public Health in charge of the Bureau.

DIRECTORATE OF AYURVED

After the formation of the Gujarat State, a separate Directorate of Ayurved has been established with headquarters at Ahmedabad. He is in-charge of all Ayurvedic institutions in the State including Ayurvedic colleges and hospitals. The principal activities of the Directorate are (1) provision of medical relief to the public in Ayurvedic way through hospitals and dispensaries and medicinal chests to treat minor ailments in villages, (2) to impart education in Ayurved, (3) conduct research at Ayurvedic colleges and hospitals, and (4) standardisation of Ayurvedic medicinal preparations.

There is no Ayurvedic hospital in the district, but one Class III Ayurvedic dispensary has been established at the Subir village from the year 1966-67. This dispensary is reported to have become very popular.

SANITATION · PROTECTED WATER SUPPLY

1. *Ahwa Water Supply Scheme*—Ahwa is situated at an elevation of 1600 ft. above mean sea-level. The entire district being hilly and rocky, wells and bores have not been successful. Therefore, an earthen *bandhara* was constructed across a nullah forming a storage of 3·54 M. Cft. of storm water. Thus piped water supply was started from this reservoir.

On account of rapid development of the town, the water supply was found inadequate. It was, therefore, decided to expand the scheme by raising the existing *bandhara* by 4 ft. thereby increasing the capacity of the reservoir to 6·15 M. Cft. It was proposed to supply the water through a high level reservoir of 25,000 gallons capacity. The plans for water supply estimated to cost Rs. 2,33,110 were approved and sanctioned by Government in 1962. The scheme has been fully executed.

In order to give filtered water to the people, the old pipelines forming the distribution system were replaced at a cost of Rs. 3·32 lakhs which included repairs and other additional works. Almost all the works are completed and filtered water is being supplied to the population. The scheme is designed to serve a population of 6,000 at the rate of 15 gallons per head per day.

2. *Waghai Water Supply Scheme*—The Waghai water supply scheme for providing drinking water to the people was taken up for execution in 1962. Water from the well, 20′-0″ dia. constructed near Rajendrapura is pumped to R. C. C. elevated reservoir of 10,000 gallons capacity through 4″ dia. R. C. C. Hume pipes rising main. From here, water is distributed through standpost through 6″, 4″ and 3″ dia. R. C. C. Hume pipes. The water works is maintained by District Local Board.

3. *Saputara Water Supply Scheme*—Saputara is a hill station in the district situated at an elevation of R. L. 2900. For the supply of water to the hill station, detailed plans and estimates were prepared. It was observed that the open well would not give sufficient quantity of water on account of geographic condition of this district. It was, therefore, decided to store monsoon water by constructing an earthen dam which was constructed in 1969-70 by the State Irrigation Department. The gross storage capacity of the dam is 22·50 M. Cft. The work of intake tower-*cum*-pump house is completed in upstream tow of the dam. The raw water from the pump-house will be pumped to water settling tank by 6″ dia. corrugated iron rising main. The settled water will be pumped to high level reservoir of 63,000 gallons capacity through pressure filters. The water to the hill station will be distributed by a net-work of pipe-lines varying from 9″ corrugated iron pipe to 3″ dia. A. C. pressure pipes. The water supply project is designed for a total population of 5,000 souls including floating visiting public.

The total daily supply in the project is estimated at 2,60,000 gallons including 60,000 gallons for gardening purpose.

FUTURE PLANS

In order to assess the exact magnitude of the problem of drinking water in the rural areas in the State, a survey was made by the Bureau of Economics and Statistics, Gujarat, between 1963 and 1965. As a result, two Investigation Divisions called the Rural Water Supply Investigation Divisions were started at Broach and Rajkot in 1963. The Dangs district is placed under the Broach Investigation Division. According to the survey, the villages have been grouped into four broad categories, viz., (1) difficult and scarcity areas, (2) specially backward class areas, (3) areas with unsafe and unwholesome water supply and (4) areas with inadequate water supply. On the basis of this grouping, Government proposes to make arrangements for supply of drinking water to the following villages in the district.

(i) 18 villages have been classified as difficult and scarcity areas. Drinking water will be provided to them at an estimated cost of Rs. 4·53 lakhs.

(ii) 143 villages have been declared as specially backward class areas in this district. Drinking water will be provided at an estimated cost of Rs. 12·72 lakhs.

(iii) No village has been declared as an area with unsafe and unwholesome water supply in this district.

(iv) 150 villages have inadequate water supply. Drinking water will be provided at an approximate cost of Rs. 28·13 lakhs.

On account of the hilly terrain of the district and the fairly heavy rainfall, Government has decided that the problem should be studied from the geological point of view. After this study is completed, the issue of water supply to the individual villages can be taken up for execution.

CHAPTER XVII

OTHER SOCIAL SERVICES

Labour Welfare

As stated before, the Dangs district is industrially backward. The entire district is a forest area populated by Adivasis. As there are no large-scale industries in the district, no labour problems generally arise. As such, the need is not felt for welfare schemes such as establishment of labour welfare centres, industrial housing, industrial estates, etc., in this district. Obviously, there are no labour problems arising out of industrial disputes, trade union movements. etc.

Labour Legislation—The following labour laws are at present in force in the Dangs district :

(1) The Indian Boilers Act, 1923

(2) The Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923

(3) The Trade Union Act, 1926

(4) The Payment of Wages Act, 1936

(5) The Employment of Children Act, 1938

(6) The Bombay Industrial Relations Act, 1946

(7) The Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946

(8) The Industrial Disputes Act, 1947

(9) The Bombay Shops and Establishments Act, 1948

(10) The Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948

(11) The Factories Act, 1948

(12) The Minimum Wages Act, 1948

(13) The Employees' Provident Fund Act, 1952

(14) The Indian Mines Act, 1952

(15) The Working Journalists (Conditions of Service and Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1955

(16) The Employment Exchanges (Compulsory Notification of Vacancies) Act, 1959

(17) The Gujarat Labour Welfare Fund Act, 1961

(18) The Maternity Benefit Act, 1961

(19) The Motor Transport Workers Act, 1961

(20) The Gujarat Smoke Nuisance Act, 1963

(21) The Payment of Bonus Act, 1965

(22) The Beedi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966

However, it may be noted that as there is no industrial development, the enforcement of various labour laws does not create complexities as found in other districts.

PROVIDENT FUND

The Employees' Provident Fund Act of 1952 was applied to the Dangs district in the year 1964. Till 31st December, 1969 it covered only one establishment, viz., the Government Saw Mills, Waghai which provides for processing or treatment of wood. It employs 63 persons. Of them, only 23 contribute to the Provident Fund.

Administrative Set-up—All matters pertaining to labour in the whole State fall within the administrative control of the Education and Labour Department of the Government of Gujarat. The Commissioner of Labour, Ahmedabad, is responsible for administering various measures pertaining to labour in the State. He has under him, one Deputy Commissioner of Labour at Ahmedabad, 12 Assistant Commissioners of Labour (eight at Ahmedabad and one each at Surat, Baroda, Rajkot and Bhavnagar) and the Labour Officers at the district level. The various labour laws are enforced by different officers headquartered at different places. No special officer is headquartered at Ahwa for enforcement of any of the laws mentioned above. The Labour Officer, Bulsar is in charge of the Dangs district. He ensures that the provisions of the various labour laws are properly enforced in the district. The Assistant Commissioner of Labour at Surat has been appointed as Conciliation Officer under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 and Conciliator under the Bombay Industrial Relations

Act, 1946 for the districts of Surat, Bulsar and Dangs. His main functions under these Acts are to deal with the industrial disputes and endeavour to bring about settlement as far as possible.

The Payment of Wages Act, 1936, the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961, the Employment of Children Act, 1948 and the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965 are enforced by the Factory Inspectorate headed by the Chief Inspector of Factories and the Factory Inspectors at the district level. The Dangs district falls within the jurisdiction of the Junior Inspector of Factories at Navsari. The Assistant Welfare Commissioner, Baroda, has to look after the welfare activities in the district of Dangs under the supervision of the Welfare Commissioner, Gujarat Labour Welfare Board, Ahmedabad.

The Industrial Court with headquarters at Ahmedabad has been constituted after the formation of the State of Gujarat. It deals with various cases under the Bombay Industrial Relations Act, 1946. Besides, the Labour Courts constituted at Ahmedabad deal with certain cases under the Bombay Industrial Relations Act, 1946, the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, etc. The Civil Judge, Junior Division, Bulsar, who works as *ex-officio* Commissioner for Workmen's Compensation for the district of Dangs also, is the authority for deciding compensation payable to those workers who have sustained injuries while on duty. The Employees' Provident Fund Act is being administered by the Regional Provident Fund Commissioner, Ahmedabad, appointed by the Central Government.

PROHIBITION

From time immemorial, the Dangis are known to be fond of liquor. From very old days, the Dangs had a number of distilleries and liquor shops. In 1842, complaints were made by the Rajas of Pimpri, Gadhvi and Amala that certain persons had set-up distilleries and liquor shops in the Dangs and that they induced the Dangis to drink which resulted in quarrels. The Chiefs had the power to forbid the establishment of such distilleries and liquor shops, but they did not use such powers. Nor was the British Government prepared to take this step. The drinking habit had spread so deep and wide in the Dangs that the British Government issued instructions to all officers to make every endeavour to induce the Dangis to abandon their excessive drinking habits. In 1853, it was suggested by the Government that there should be only one or two shops in each Dang, and the list of such shops to be retained was prepared by the Collector. In 1856, the Collector proposed that all liquor shops should be closed. The Chiefs agreed to this proposal but the experiment failed and the shops were reopened in 1874.[1]

1. CAMPBELL J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. XII, *Khandesh*, (1880), p. 597.

The Bombay Abkari Act was made applicable to the Dangs territory in 1889. Information is not available about its operational effects.

A study of the Dangs Annual Administration Reports reveals that during the past 'no Dangi ceremony was carried out without great deal of drinking'. Liquor drinking was common among lower officials. Illicit distillation was carried on extensively.

Mr. F. G. H. Anderson, Collector and Political Agent, Surat conceded in 1911 that the drink problem was very grave in the Dangs and urgent action was necessary to reduce drunkenness. He also stated; "As things now are there is nothing in the Dangs on which an industrious man could spend his surplus earnings except drink."[1]

The Political Agent noted in 1916; "It is a fact, that when the Bhil happens to possess any surplus cash, he could think of little in the way of luxuries to spend it on else than liquor." Thus liquor drinking remained a feature of the Dangis' birth and death—their happy as well as sad-ceremonies. Suggesting the remedies of the three-fold evils of backwardness, ignorance and liquor drinking in the Dangs the Political Agent remarked, "Remedy for backwardness, ignorance and drunkenness is education and contact with the outer world. Education alone will not reduce drunkenness: expenses on good clothes, soda water and tea should be increased."

As a result, efforts were made thereafter to induce the Dangis to keep away from liquor. The Dangs Diwan made many personal efforts for moderating the drinking habits of people and found an alternative to divert the minds of the people from wine. He made arrangements to supply tea to several Chiefs in the hope of acquiring a taste for it. Simultaneously, the Mission at Ahwa established a plant for soda water and sweet drinks.

The Dangs Administration Report of 1914 noted; "Because of the special efforts by Diwan to make the Chiefs and people temperate, 51 have taken pledge not to drink and except 7 all have kept the pledge. The Mission prepared and sold 2,270 bottles of soda and 1,179 of sweet drinks. It was worth noting that there was no sign of drunkenness during the Darbar, in the year 1914, among about 1,000 present at Ahwa."

Among measures to reduce drunkenness in the Dangs, the Ahwa Distillery was abolished from 31st March, 1915. Secondly, what was known as the single-shop system was introduced in place of the old monopoly, 11 shops being given out to 8 separate licensees at a total license fee of Rs. 2,420. Thirdly, the objectionable practice of the shop-keepers trading in *nagli* and money-lending business and bagging the best land for cultivation was stopped. All these measures resulted in more effective control

1. *Annual Administration Report*, Dangs, 1910-1911.

over shop-keepers and in reducing illicit distillation and illicit importation of liquor.

In 1931, Government fixed the vacation period of three and half months, i. e., from 16th February to 31st May every year, during which period no pass was necessary for collection and possession of Mhowra flowers. During the remaining period, nobody was allowed to keep Mhowra flowers. The liquor was not allowed to be sold from any shop to any Government servant or a minor. The Chiefs were allowed to import small quantities of opium for private consumption. Licences were issued to shops for selling liquors, which were asked to maintain complete accounts.

The statistics of liquor consumption in the Dangs from 1921 to 1942 are given below :

Year	Consumption in gallons	Year	Consumption in gallons	Year	Consumption in gallons
1921	30,976	1929	37,923	1936	29,491
1922	22,700	1930	36,576	1937	29,380
1923	19,990	1931	28,432	1938	29,661
1924	28,676	1932	27,432	1939	29,117
1925	33,170	1933	31,089	1940	29,817
1926	35,263	1934	30,196	1941	30,902
1927	31,441	1935	30,678	1942	33,432
1928	35,304				

The increase in consumption in 1925 and 1926 was attributed to good harvest and increased earnings from saw-mill carting. A similar rise in consumption in 1928 and 1929 was due to (i) the influenza epidemic and (ii) the influx of outside labourers for forest work which also caused rise in consumption in 1933. Similarly, the fall in consumption especially after 1935 was due to unfavourable agricultural conditions and trade depression in general.

After a gradual fall in liquor consumption for over a decade, it again increased in 1942 which was a famine year. The unusually large sales of liquor in a famine year was regarded as a disquieting feature by Government, and therefore, to prevent excessive drinking in future, the liquor ration for 1942 was reduced to 27,000 gallons. It was further ordered that the annual liquor consumption should be reduced from 30,000 to 20,000 gallons by 1944-45. In the interest of the people, Government decided to discontinue the grant of extra rations over the amounts fixed for each liquor shop. Orders were also issued forbidding cash payment to labourers in the vicinity of liquor shop or advancement of money to them through liquor licences, both abuses prevalent in the Dangs.[1] According to the Annual Administration Report,[2] the total consumption of liquor in the Dangs was 16,000 proof gallons per year between 1944 and 1946. No toddy shops

1. *Administration Report for the Dangs*, 1942.

2. *Ibid.*, (1st August, 1944 to 31st March 1946), p. 13.

were reported and the use of noxious drugs such as opium and *ganja* was unknown.

Till 1945, the policy of the Government was based on a rationing system.[1] In 1945, it was decided to replace this policy by one of progressive curtailment of the specific gravity of the liquor. With effect from 1945, no liquor stronger than 65 per cent U. P. was permitted to be supplied. In addition, two Government depots were set up where country spirit was provided in sealed bottles of guaranteed quality and this was sold at the further reduced strength of 70 per cent U. P. This experiment proved popular. Provision of liquor in bottles encouraged the purchaser not to drink his whole purchase on the spot, but to take it home and drink it in reasonable quantities with his family, as required. Gradually, the liquor shops were replaced by the Government depots.

Government decided in 1947 to achieve total prohibition by April 1950. With this objective in view, Government introduced partial prohibition in the Dangs. To start with, 25 per cent cut in the consumption of country liquor, foreign liquor and toddy was introduced in 1947-48. The cut was increased to 50 per cent in the second year, 75 per cent in the third year and 100 per cent in the fourth year, viz., in 1950-51. Besides, all liquor shops were ordered to be closed for two days in a week in the first year, four days in the second year, five days in the third year and permanently closed with effect from 1st April, 1950.

In pursuance of this policy, the prohibition work was introduced on 7th September, 1948. At that time, among the total population of 48,282 the Dangis used to drink liquor worth lakhs of rupees yielding an excise revenue of the order of Rs. 12 lakhs to Government. It was roughly estimated that the expenditure of a Dangi on liquor worked out to Rs. 100 per annum The prohibition law, however, came to be applied later in 1950. This shows that the prohibition was introduced in the Dangs earlier than in other parts of the Bombay State.

The Dangs district is governed by the Bombay Prohibition Act, 1949. The import, export, transport, purchase, possession, use, consumption and manufacture of intoxicants are prohibited in the State except under a licence or a permit. The Act, however, provides for the grant of permits for the possession, use and consumption of foreign liquor by foreigners, tourists, privileged personages, visitors and those requiring liquor either for medical purposes or on grounds of health. The manufacture, sale, consumption, etc., of country liquor is not permitted except for sacramental purposes. Permits for sacramental wine required by Jews, Christians and Parsis for religious purposes are granted in accordance with the provisions of the rules made in this behalf. Licences

1. *Administration Report for the Dangs*, (1st August, 1944 to 31st March, 1946), p. 13

and permits for the possession and use of alcohol for industrial, educational, medical and research purposes are also granted. The laws relating to prohibition in force at present in Gujarat State are: (1) the Bombay Prohibition Act, 1949 ; (2) the Bombay Opium Smoking Act, 1936 ; (3) the Bombay Drugs (Control) Act, 1959 ; (4) the Dangerous Drugs Act, 1930 ; (5) the Medicinal and Toilet Preparations (Excise Duties) Act, 1955 ; and (6) the Spirituous Preparations (Inter-State Trade and Commerce) Control Act, 1955.

Administrative Set-up—About the administrative set-up, the Director of Prohibition and Excise is the head of the department and is responsible for the proper enforcement of the above Acts. At the State level, the Education and Labour Department exercises supervision over the working of the department. In all the districts except the district of Dangs, Prohibition and Excise Officers have been appointed to assist the Director in implementing the prohibition policy. For the Dangs district, no separate officer has been appointed as in other districts.

In view of the peculiar conditions in the Dangs district, the work of excise and prohibitoin is entrusted to two separate officers. As regards excise work, the Superintendent of Prohibition and Excise, Bulsar looks after the work in the Dangs district. He is responsible to the Director of Prohibition and Excise, Ahmedabad. He is invested with various powers under the Acts mentioned above. As regards the work of prohibition propaganda, a separate Prohibition Officer has been appointed for the district.

Objectives and Working of Prohibition Laws—The legislation in respect of prohibition is brought into force primarily with a view to eliminating the drink and drug vices from the State. It also aims at raising the standard of living of the people besides rehabilitating the home life of the addicts.

Prohibition offences recorded in the district during the last few years are shown below :

Year	Illicit import, export, possession and distillation of liquor	Cases against Prohibition Laws detected in the Dangs district				
		Drunkenness	Misc.	Opium	Hemp drugs	Total
1962-63 ..	109	46	11	..	1	166
1963-64 ..	77	44	11	..	..	132
1964-65 ..	90	69	7	..	..	166
1965-66 ..	88	74	19	..	..	181
1966-67 ..	87	70	4	..	1	162
1967-68 ..	37	32	..	..	..	69
1968-69 ..	36	40	3	..	..	79

Source :
Director of Prohibition and Excise, Gujarat State, Ahmedabad.

Activities of the Department at District Level—In order to provide recreation and counter-attraction to the Dangis, the Sanskar Kendras have been opened. There are nine such Sanskar Kendras run departmentally at the following villages in the district : (1) Ahwa, (2) Waghai, (3) Shamgahan, (4) Pipaldahad, (5) Meheskatri, (6) Rambhas, (7) Chinchli, (8) Singana, and (9) Bardipada.

The activities of these Sanskar Kendras cover outdoor and indoor games and other entertainment programmes such as film-shows, Bhajan programme, etc. Radio sets have been installed at the Sanskar Kendras. They have proved very useful as a medium of mass communication.

The Sanchalaks of these Kendras tour the areas within a radius of 5 miles for prohibition propaganda. In addition, there are two troups called 'Kalapathak' and 'Powada' party. They arrange 15 programmes each month for prohibition propaganda. For each programme, the party is given Rs. 30. The Prohibition Officer during tours visits the Sanskar Kendras and gives guidance and impetus to the prohibition work.

Benefits of Prohibition--The beneficent effects of 20 years of prohibition are now visible in the general welfare of the people. The release of extra purchasing power in their hands has enabled a large number of the Dangis who were given to drink, to repay their old debts, take to improved methods of agriculture and educate their children upto higher standards. Prohibition has also resulted in lesser family tensions, cordial relations at home and general peace and goodwill among the Dangis. The prohibition policy has thus proved an instrument of socio-economic change among the Dangis.

The prohibition has helped secure better furnished homes for working people, better mental health by better family co-operation and domestic felicity. A larger portion of the husband's income now goes to the family. Because of prohibition, he has become contented. The woman receives more money for the home and for clothing and other domestic uses. Employees whose average efficiency has increased now report for work with greater regularity.

The adverse effects of drinking were more ruinous to the poor and backward strata of society in rural areas who ruined their health, wealth, home and happiness due to liquor. It was discovered during the course of study conducted by the Tek Chand Study-team on Prohibition appointed by the Planning Commission (1963) that among Adivasis and other tribals, at functions like marriages and mournings, child-birth or funerals or any other extraordinary event, whether joyful or saddening, it was customary to drink.[1] It is this class, therefore, that has benefited more by prohibition.

1. *Report of the Study-team on Prohibition*, (New Delhi), 1964, pp. 63-64.

About the benefits of prohibition, Shri M. D. Bhansali's observations are very relevant and are, therefore, reproduced below :

"Government in the past made cheap liquor available to him (the Dangi) at annas ten a bottle. The result was that illicit distillation disappeared but drinking habit persisted and intensified. The Dangi, man, woman and child was accustomed to liquor. Prohibition was applied to this area also and consumption of liquor has practically disappeared throughout the district. The Collector reports that there are barely a dozen instances of liquor smuggling taking place in the Dangs per year. Only one case of illicit distillation on the western border has come to light. He adds, development in this tract would be impossible but for prohibition. The wages paid in the Dangs by the Forest Contractors, Co-operative Labour Societies, Public Works Department, Forest Department, etc., are of the order of Rs. 2 lakhs to Rs. 3 lakhs per year. Before prohibition, due to the Dangis' addiction to drink, etc., two-thirds of these wages are estimated to have gone to non-Dangis. Now, the Dangis turn up for work readily and claim a good proportion of the wages. Before prohibition, the liquor still head duty annually yielded Rs. 3 lakhs to Government. It can, therefore, be easily gauged as to how large a proportion of these comparatively huge earnings went on drink. (There are about 9,000 families in the Dangs).

"There is all-round development in this area. Malaria has been eradicated. The Dangi who formerly starved at various seasons of the year or wandered about the forests in search of *shikar*, berries, honey, roots, tubers, now does his work and buys rations with the money. Attendance in school of children has improved and there is a demand for more schools. The Chief Medical Officer reports that while the number of patients desiring treatment has increased by cent per cent, the percentage of persons suffering from respiratory diseases attributed to exposure and chill after drinking has shown a drop of about 50 per cent."[1]

Backward Classes

There are certain weaker sections of population in every part of the country, who because of geographical, social or economic factors, have not been able to establish or maintain relations or contacts with other sections of society. As a result, they have not been able to get benefits of various developmental activities of the Government. Their educational progress is slow and their level of living is also low. They are backward, socially as well as economically. Some of the castes suffer from the social stigma of

1. Bhansali M. D., *Prohibition Inquiry Report in Bombay State*. Bombay, (1952); pp. 13-14.

untouchability, some live in forest areas and some live a nomadic life, and are sometimes engaged in anti-social activities. They are deprived of the direct benefits of various welfare activities of the Government because of social segregation and economic isolation from the main stream of life.

The Adivasis of Dangs are among the most backward in the whole State. They are backward socially, culturally and economically. The whole tract of the Dangs is more of a jungle than an inhabited society. Most of the Dangis are illiterate and hardly come in contact with the advanced people belonging to other areas of the State. They are, therefore, backward in their way of living, customs, housing and education.

According to the 1961 Census, the Backward Classes in the Dangs consist of Kunbis, Bhils, Varlis and other Scheduled Tribes which account for 92·55 per cent of the total population of the district. The Scheduled Castes include Khalpa, Bhangi, Mahar, Vankar, Mochi, Mang and Matang, etc. They are insignificant forming a mere 0·36 per cent of the total population of the district.

These Backward Classes as a rule share the benefits accruing from the general development programme of the State. But in view of the handicaps from which they suffer, it has been necessary to supplement the general programme by special schemes for the welfare of these depressed classes. After 1947, Government of Gujarat took conserted measures for ameliorating the conditions of the Backward Classes. The scheme for the welfare of the Backward Classes can broadly be classified into (a) educational schemes, (b) economic uplift schemes and (c) health, housing and other schemes.

(a) *Educational Uplift*—Out of the total expenditure of Rs. 19·85 lakhs incurred in the district for the welfare of the Backward Classes during the Third Plan period, an amount of Rs. 1.66 lakhs was spent on schemes for educational uplift. Since expenditure incurred on education is an investment in man, the State Government is very keen to promote education among the tribals and other Backward Classes. By and large, the State assistance consists of payment of tuition fees, examination fees, and scholarships to students. The State also gives grants for the construction of hostels and also for Ashram Schools for Backward Class students.[1] The district has 8 Government Ashramshalas, 1 private Ashramshala and 7 Backward Class hostels of which 5 are run by the District School Board.

(b) *Measures for Economic Uplift*—A majority of the Backward Classes in the Dangs are forest labourers or artisans and agriculturists. The programme for their economic uplift covers the following schemes :

1. Details of these schemes are given in Chapter XV—Education and Culture.

(1) financial assistance for cottage industries and professions, and

(2) financial assistance to forest and co-operative societies.

Under the schemes relating to agriculture, financial assistance is granted to the Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes at 50 per cent interest-free loan and 50 per cent subsidy for the purchase of oil-engines and pumps. By way of financial assistance, loans and subsidies subject to a maximum limit of Rs. 500 per individual are granted to all Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Caste members for purchase of improved implements required for their professions or for starting cottage industries like tailoring, carpentry, weaving, toy-making, leather industries, etc. For the economic uplift of the Scheduled Castes and Tribes, an amount of Rs. 17·83 lakhs was spent in the district during the Third Plan period.

(c) *Health, Housing and Others*—The Backward Classes in general are given financial assistance in the form of subsidy for construction of tenements by the Dangs Housing Board. Various types of co-operative societies are given financial assistance for share capital, management, tools and equipment. Free legal assistance is given to the Scheduled Castes and Tribes in criminal and civil proceedings, as it was found that due to their poor economic condition they could not defend themselves in a court of law. The amount spent during the Third Five Year Plan under this scheme was Rs. 36,000.

In the year 1970, Government have sanctioned 5 social workers specially for the Dangs to guide and help the tribals.

Reservation of Seats for Backward Classes—Prior to Independence, social welfare activities were confined to a few social workers, a few service-minded societies and the Christian missionaries, and no special efforts were made by Government or the public at large for the amelioration of the conditions and prospects of the Backward Classes.

The Directive Principles of State Policy lay down that the State shall promote with special care the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people, and of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in particular, and shall protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation. The Fundamental Rights embodied in the Constitution enjoin abolition of untouchability and forbid its practice in any shape or form. The enforcement of any disability arising out of untouchability has been made penal. To ensure equality of opportunity for all citizens in matters relating to employment, it has been laid down that no citizen shall, on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, descent, place of birth, residence or any of them, be ineligible for, or discriminated against, in respect of any employment or office under the State.

The erstwhile Government of Bombay had fixed the following minimum percentages for reservation of seats in Government service for the Backward Classes in accordance with the provisions made under Article 335 of the Constitution of India.

Category of service	Percentage of vacancies to be reserved in recruitment
1 All Class I and II services and posts thereunder	12½
2 Class III services	
(i) Scheduled Castes	6
(ii) Scheduled Tribes	7
(iii) Other Backward Classes	9
3 Class IV services	
(i) Scheduled Castes	7
(ii) Scheduled Tribes	9
(iii) Other Backward Classes	11

In order to develop competence and thereby level up the members of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, the Government of Gujarat continued these reservation percentages even after the bifurcation of the former Bombay State. They were continued till 1969, when the Government thought of revising the reservations of seats in recruitment to Government service of members from the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The changes made in the reservation percentages are set out below.

In the case of the State level posts, the Government has fixed[1] the reservation percentages for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for the whole State as under :

Sl. No.	Category	Classification of services and percentage of reservation		
		Class I & II	Class III	Class IV
1	Scheduled Castes	5	7	7
2	Scheduled Tribes	10	14	14

1. Government of Gujarat, General Administration Department, Resolution No. BAC-1064-3373-Ch, dated 20th September, 1969.

It will be clear from the above statement that the reservation percentages are enhanced in the case of Class I and II posts. As regards Scheduled Castes, there is no material change in the case of the reservation percentages for Class III and Class IV services. But the reservation percentage in the case of Scheduled Tribes has been doubled in the case of Class III services and raised from 9 to 14 in the case of Class IV.

In the case of the district level posts, the revised percentages shown in the above statement hold good for the members of the Scheduled Castes but in the case of the Scheduled Tribes in the Dangs district, the percentages are up-graded to 35 per cent and 50 per cent for Class III and Class IV services respectively.

Such accommodation of the members of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Government services is imperative in order to enable them to develop competence to face the growing competition and challenges of a society fast developing around them.

Administrative Set-up—The Government of Gujarat constituted in 1962, the Dangs Development Council for comprehensive development of the Dangs. The Chief Minister of the State is the Chairman of the Council since its inception. The Director of Social Welfare acts as the Member-Secretary. Besides there are 13 official and non-official members. As regards the institutions of local self-Government, there are the District Local Board and the District School Board, which alongwith the advisory body of the District Development Board, work for the comprehensive development of the Adivasi population of the district. The Panchayat Raj is being introduced in the district

While all the departmental officers of the Government are concerned with the welfare and progress of the Backward Classes of the district, the Social Welfare Officer, Dangs specialises in the problems of the Backward Classes. He works under the control of the Director of Social Welfare. However, for speedy and all-round development of the Dangs, the Collector, Dangs has been given wide supervisory and budgetary powers and the various offices in the Dangs work under the general supervision and control of the Collector as the leader and coordinator of the official team.

PUBLIC TRUSTS AND CHARITABLE ENDOWMENTS

The Dangs being a small and backward district has only four public trusts. They are (i) the Dang Swaraj Ashram, Ahwa ; (ii) the Dang Pradesh Kelvani Mandal, Ahwa ; (iii) the Dang Seva Mandal, Ahwa and (iv) the Muslim Sunni Jamat, Ahwa.

The Dang Swaraj Ashram, Ahwa—The trust was established in 1957 for the purpose of spreading educational facilities among the Dangis and

for conducting welfare activities for them. The trust runs Ashramshalas at Ahwa and Kalibel, and one Kanya Chhatralaya and one Balwadi at Ahwa. It has a reserve fund of Rs. 1·49 lakhs.

The Dang Pradesh Kelvani Mandal, Ahwa—It was established in 1963 with the main object of starting educational institutions in the Dangs. It has a reserve fund of Rs. 2,525.

The Dang Seva Mandal, Ahwa—The trust was established in 1964, for providing medical and educational facilities to the Dangis. It has a small reserve fund of Rs. 300 only.

The Muslim Sunni Jamat, Ahwa—The trust was established in 1964 with a very small fund of Rs. 50. Its object is to help the members of the Sunni Jamat by providing religious education to their children.

In the context of the general poverty of the Dangis and economic backwardness of the territory, the main object of the trusts in the Dangs has been the promotion of education and improvement of the economic condition of the people.

PART VII

CHAPTER XVIII

PUBLIC LIFE AND VOLUNTARY SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANISATIONS

Public Life

Public life is influenced by individuals and institutions. Due to its peculiar geographical and historical conditions discussed in earlier chapters, the Dangs did not provide the environment for any voluntary institution to function or flourish. Nor was there any public-spirited individual, who could mould and enlighten public opinion. Moreover, the Dangis being illiterate and improvident, never bothered to organise themselves except under emergent circumstances. Till recently, the whole tract was so difficult to reach and during the greater part of the year so unhealthy, that it was seldom visited by outsiders. As such, the winds of change and reforms did not blow over the Dangs. Moreover, the poor Adivasis, who were averse to regular work, remained always lethargic due to their excessive fondness for liquor. As a result, the Dangs continued to remain most backward even after the Britishers established contact with this area as forest leaseholders. As Mr. James Campbell recorded in 1880, 'the country changed little under British management except that law and order was maintained.'[1]

For these reasons, organised public life of the type found in other districts was totally absent in the Dangs. It was only after Independence and especially after the first General Elections of 1952 that the Dangis realised the importance of organised opinion in public life. The right to vote granted to all adults, male or female, literate or illiterate, in selecting their own representatives for the State and the Union legislatures made them politically conscious. The establishment of such voluntary organisations like the Dang Swaraj Ashram in 1948, helped the Dangis to understand and appreciate the benefits of organised public life. Inspite of this, the public life is still not as organised here as it is in other districts of Gujarat due to illiteracy and general backwardness.

Representation of the District in the State and Union Legislatures

The Dangs district being small in area and population, no separate constituency has been formed for election purposes, but it is tagged on with

1. Campbell J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. XII, *Khandesh*, (1880), p. 597.

any constituency in the adjacent areas according to the fluctuating fortunes of the Dangis. For the purpose of the first General Elections in 1952, the Government of Bombay proposed to link up the Dangs district with the adjacent district of Surat. This provoked some leaders from Maharashtra to demand inclusion of the Dangs district in the adjacent constituency of the Nasik district. The Government of India, therefore, constituted in September, 1950, the Bombay State Delimitation Committee consisting of 5 members of whom 3 were from the Maharashtra Provincial Congress Committee and 2 were from the Gujarat Provincial Congress Committee. This Committee by majority vote of 3 against 2 decided that the Dangs district should be included in a constituency of the Nasik district for election purposes only.[1]

This decision of the Committee raised a storm of protest and resentment from all corners of Gujarat, because it affected the ancient territorial integrity of Gujarat and gave rise to misgivings about the future status of the Dangs district. As a result, the entire Gujarat rose in revolt as one man. Because of the Gujarat's ancient relations with the Dangs from the points of view of history, geography, communications and the cultural contacts, Gujarat urged that the *status quo* should be maintained and that the Dangs district should continue to remain with Surat as hithertofore. In May, 1951, when Dr. Rajendraprasad, President of India visited Gujarat, strong representations were made to him in this matter. Even the Prime Minister was approached in this regard. Consequently, in May, 1951, Government of India decided to link up the Dangs district with the Surat district for electoral purposes and maintain the *status quo*.[2] Predictably, the leaders of Maharashtra protested against the decision. In order to mollify them, the Government of India appointed a Sub-Committee of 3 members of the Parliament with Bakshi Tek Chand as chairman to arbitrate and give award on the rival claims of Gujarat and Maharashtra. The Committee considered the representations from both the sides and in June, 1951, decided that the Dangs district should be included in the double-member constituency of the Nasik district, in which one seat should be reserved for the Scheduled Tribes.[3] The Committee made it quite clear that the decision to include the Dangs district in the Nasik district was purely for electoral purposes and was not to prejudice the rights of the other party in regard to the future status of the Dangs. In spite of this rider, the conscience of Gujarat remained agitated and suspicious. But as the award was binding on both the sides, Gujarat acquiesced in the award to include the Dangs district in the Dangs-Surgana-Peint-Dindori double-member constituency of the Nasik district for the General Elections of 1952. Thus

1. The *Sandesh*, dated 8th September, 1950.

2. The *Gujarat Samachar*, dated 20th May, 1951.

3. The *Sandesh*, dated 8th June, 1951.

the decision about the Dangs district underwent changes according to the political pressures brought at high levels.

In the second General Elections held in 1957, the Dangs (with Kalvan) was made a one-member constituency reserved for the Scheduled Tribes under the Nasik district.

After the formation of the separate State of Gujarat in 1960, two General Elections were held in 1962 and 1967. During these elections to the State Legislature, the Dangs district was included in the single-member constituency of Bansda, which was in the district of Surat in 1962 and Bulsar in 1967.

For the purpose of elections to the Parliament, the Dangs formed part of the Nasik Parliamentary constituency in the 1952 and 1957 General Elections.[1] After the formation of Gujarat, the Dangs district which has been included in the Bansda constituency forms part of the Mandvi (Scheduled Tribes) Parliamentary constituency of the Surat district.

The details of the present territorial extents of the Parliamentary and Assembly constituencies are given below.

*Delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies**

Name of the constituency	Extent of Parliamentary/Assembly constituencies
(a) Parliamentary constituency	
1. Mandvi (ST)	Songadh, Mandvi, Mangrol, Bardoli, Mahuva, Vyara and Bansda.
(b) Assembly constituency	Territorial Extent
1. Bansda (ST)	Bansda taluka (excluding Limzar circle) in Bulsar district and the Dangs district.

**The Gujarat Government Gazette*, Vol. VII, No. 13, Part IV-C, dated 31st March, 1966, pp. 560-576.

POLITICAL PARTIES AND ORGANISATIONS

The main political parties in the district are the Congress, the Praja Socialists and the Swatantra. An analysis of the election results of 1952, 1957, 1962 and 1967, reveals the relative hold of the various political parties

1. *The Bombay Government Gazette*, Extra, Part IV-C, December 28, 1956, p. 261.

in the district. In the first General Elections of 1952, three political parties, viz., the Congress, the Peasants and Workers Party and the Kamgar Kisan Paksh contested the elections besides seven independent candidates. The number of valid votes cast in the Dangs-Surgana-Peint-Dindori double-member constituency was 77,754 or 37·11 per cent of the total votes. Both the Assembly seats as well as the Parliamentary seat (Nasik Central) were won by the Congress.

Commenting on the voting behaviour in the Dangs proper, the Gujarat Pradesh Congress Committee observed; "Out of the 13 candidates, who contested from Dangs-Surgana-Peint-Dindori constituency, three belonged to the Dangs proper. Of these, two independent candidates fought the election on the issue of the Dangs being part of Gujarat, the third candidate supported its inclusion in Maharashtra. Thus, there was a straight fight on the Dangs issue. Out of the 16,345 valid votes cast, the two independent candidates who favoured the joining of the Dangs with Gujarat, secured 9,750 votes, i. e., 59·68 per cent of the votes, while the Congress candidate supporting merger with Maharashtra polled 3,330 votes, i. e., 20·37 per cent only. If we take into account all the votes polled in favour of other candidates, who supported the merger of the Dangs with Gujarat, about 79 per cent of the voters favoured its merger with Gujarat."[1]

In 1957 General Elections, there was a contest between the Congress and three independent candidates for the Dangs (ST) constituency. One of the independent candidates won the election by securing nearly 36 per cent of the valid votes. The Parliamentary seat (Nasik) was secured by the Scheduled Castes Federation candidate. The strength of the voters for the Assembly constituency was 60,727. Of these 29,315 or 48·28 per cent exercised their franchise validly.

In the General Elections of 1962, the contesting parties included the Congress, the Praja Socialists, the Swatantra and one independent (non-party) candidate. The Assembly seat was won by the Congress by a margin of nearly 3,000 votes. The Mandvi (ST) Parliamentary seat was also won by the Congress. Of the total of 71,572 electors for the Assembly constituency, 44,754 or 62·53 per cent exercised their franchise validly.

In the General Elections of 1967, the contesting parties included the Congress, the Praja Socialists, the Swatantra and one independent candidate. The Praja Socialists won the Assembly seat held by the Congress member for the first time. The Parliamentary seat (Mandvi ST) was, however, retained by the Congress. The strength of the voters was 53,330. Of these, 27,307 or 51·20 per cent were recorded as valid votes.

1. Memorandum presented by the Gujarat Pradesh Congress Committee to the State Re-organisation Commission, 12th June, 1954, p. 50.

The following statement gives the total number of votes polled during each of the four General Elections for the State Legislatures.

Votes Polled in the General Elections

						Congress		Other parties	
Election Year	Total No. of Electors	Total votes polled	Percentage of col. 3 to col. 2	Total valid votes polled	Percentage of col. 5 to col. 2	Votes polled	Percentage to total valid votes	Votes polled	Percentage to total valid votes
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1952 ..	1,04,770 (2,09,540)*	N.A.	N.A.	77,754	37.11	23,532	30.26	54,222	69.74
1957 ..	60,727	N.A.	N.A.	29,315	48.28	9,934	33.89	19,381	66.11
1962 ..	71,572	44,763	62.54	44,754	62.53	16,807	37.55	27,947	62.45
1967 ..	53,330	29,646	55.59	27,307	51.20	7,945	29.10	19,362	70.90

Source :
Reports on the General Elections in India—1952, 1957, 1962 and 1967, published by Election Commission, India.

*As the Dangs-Surgana-Peint-Dindori was a double-member constituency in 1952 General Elections, the total number of votes in the constituency was double, i. e., 2,09,540.

The above statistics reveal that the Congress party in the district which gained ground during the first three elections suffered heavily in the last General Elections.

DISTRICT LOCAL BOARD ELECTIONS

The Panchayati Raj has not been introduced[1] in the district. However, its functions are performed by the District Local Board working since 1958. The first election for the District Local Board was held on 6th April, 1958. There were ten constituencies, viz., Ahwa, Galkund, Shamgahan, Sakarpatal, Waghai, Bardipada, Subir, Pipaldahad, Chinchli and Gadhvi. Each had three seats. The election was fought directly on the issue whether the Dangs should be included in Gujarat or Maharashtra. It, therefore, created considerable political tension in these areas. There were 30 seats in 10 constituencies. The Congress partymen were divided on this issue. Both the factions from Gujarat and Maharashtra fielded 30 candidates each for 30 seats. Thus though all the candidates belonged to the Congress party, they contested as independents. This was because the election was treated as a referendum for deciding the fate of the Dangs. The total number of voters in these constituencies was 68,753 of whom 41,858 or 60·88 per cent exercised their franchise. Out of 30 seats, 26 were annexed by the pro-Gujarat faction and only 4 seats went to pro-Maharashtra faction. Thus, the Gujarat party headed by Shri Chhotubhai Gulabbhai Naik secured a landslide victory, while the Maharashtra Congress candidates were defeated.

1. Steps are being taken to introduce the Panchayati Raj at the village level.

As a result, Shri Chhotubhai Naik became the first President of the Board. These results had to be taken as an award of the people on the issue of the Dangs. It was, therefore, honoured at the time of bifurcation of the Bombay State by including the Dangs in Gujarat in 1960. Thus the results decided the territorial fate of the Dangs.

The second election for the District Local Board was held in 1964. The constituencies were the same as in 1958 elections. But there were four contesting parties called (i) Dangi, (ii) Virodhpaksh, (iii) Socialist and (iv) Swatantra. Out of the 30 seats in the district, 25 were won by the Dangis and only 5 went to Virodhpaksh. Out of 86,964 voters, 37,243 or 42·58 per cent went to polls.

Details about the working of the Board are given in Chapter XIV—Local-Self Government.

NEWSPAPERS

No daily newspaper or periodical is published in the district. The Gujarati dailies published from Surat, i. e., the *Gujarat Mitra* and the *Pratap* are widely read here. The *Sandesh* of Ahmedabad, and the *Loksatta* of Baroda are also generally read in the district. Among the English daily newspapers, *the Times of India* is read by the educated readers, mostly civil servants, residing in the district.

VOLUNTARY SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANISATIONS

As the Dangs is mainly a forest tract populated by Adivasis, there is little scope for development of voluntary organisations. However, efforts were made by the Christian missionaries in the past for the upliftment of the Dangis. The Church of the American Brethren in India established in 1904, was the most important among them. After Independence, the establishment of the Dang Swaraj Ashram, the Dang Seva Mandal and other voluntary social service institutions such as Yuvak Mandals, Mahila Mandals, etc., played an important role in the social, cultural and economic uplift of the masses.

There are at present 45 Yuvak Mandals and 5 Mahila Mandals established by the Development Block besides a few other voluntary institutions working in the district. The important among them are described below.

The Church of the American Brethren in India

The work done by the foreign missionaries in backward areas is well-known to all. In the Dangs when no one was interested in helping the poor,

backward and illiterate Adivasis, the foreign missionaries came there in 1904. No transport facility or communication was available to them. There were no good roads for vehicles to ply on. Scarcity of water, bad weather, danger of wild animals, etc., were the formidable difficulties. The Church started its activities under these constraints. Though the aims of the missionaries were to spread Christianity, they did help the poor Adivasis in a number of ways. The Church of the Brethren first started its activity by establishing a school at Ahwa in 1905 followed by several other schools in different villages. It also ran a Chhatralaya for the students. The institution still functions on a limited scale. It provides free medicine to needy persons and helps them fight against various diseases. At present, it runs one Gujarati School at Ahwa.

The Dang Swaraj Ashram, Ahwa

The Dang Swaraj Ashram is the most important institution in the district. It was established in 1948 by the efforts of prominent social workers like Shri Jugatrambhai Dave of Vedchhi Ashram and Shri Chhotubhai Naik. Under their guidance, the institution works for the welfare of the Dangis and gives assistance to them in all walks of their life.

The Ashram conducts various activities in spheres of education, Khadi production, co-operation, relief works, etc. They are summarised below.

Education—The Ashram has played an important role in opening primary schools in the Dangs. It runs two hostels, one for boys and the other for girls at Ahwa for the last 20 years. Most of the Dangi boys and girls, who are now gainfully employed, have been educated in the Ashram schools and hostels. It runs one Ashramshala at village Kalibel, which is a pioneering effort. It also runs a Hindi Prachar Kendra at Ahwa.

Khadi—The Ashram runs a Khadi Kendra at Ahwa.

Relief and other activities—It runs a *Gaushala*. In event of natural calamities, it provides relief measures. It also helps the Dangis by helping them solve their financial problems, marriage disputes and forest disputes by conciliation. On several committees connected with the development of the Dangs a representative of the Ashram is appointed by the Government of Gujarat. The institution has carried out improved agricultural activities for the training of the Ashramites.

The Dang Seva Mandal, Ahwa

The Dang Seva Mandal at Ahwa as the branch of the Dangs Seva Mandal of Nasik, was started in 1948 for doing social work. The institution has since been closed.

CHAPTER XIX

PLACES OF INTEREST

Ahwa—(P.* 3,623—M.* 2,073 ; F.* 1,550)

Ahwa, the headquarters of the one-taluka district of the Dangs, lies on the north latitude 20°-45′ and the east longitude 73°-41′. It is situated about 1,800 feet above the sea level. Ahwa is 34 kms. away from Waghai, a terminus on the Bilimora-Waghai narrow gauge section of the Western Railway and is connected by regular bus services with Waghai, Bilimora, Surat, Nawapur, Bulsar, Fort Songadh, Vyara and Nasik. The Dangs which was formerly covered by small principalities ruled over by 4 Rajas and 10 Naiks was merged in the Bombay State in 1947 and included in the Gujarat State in 1960. It was placed under the administrative control of the Collector of Surat immediately after merger and shortly thereafter, was constituted into a separate district. The district offices of practically all the departments and those of the District Local Board and the District School Board have been located at Ahwa.

The whole district, inhabited by the tribal people, is a hilly area covered with thick forests, and the scenic beauty and the games found in the jungle are sources of attraction to tourists. Poisonous snakes from here are sent to the Haffkine Institute, Bombay. for preparing injections. The teak wood, claiming about 45 per cent of the tree-growth of the district, especially of the Mahal and Kot areas ranks amongst the best quality in India. The forests of Dangs, rich in timber wood, yielded over one crore rupees in 1967-68.

The population of Ahwa which is the highest in the district consists mostly of Government servants and merchants The Dang Swaraj Ashram situated here runs a hostel. A primary school is run by the District School Board within the Ashram premises. Besides, there is a secondary school, a Kumar Chhatralaya, a Sanskar Kendra and a library and reading room. The Tribal Development Block has set-up a technical school for imparting training in carpentry and smithy. Ahwa has a civil hospital with a laboratory, a mobile dispensary, a family planning centre, a remand home, a veterinary dispensary and a poultry centre. There are four rest-houses, one each of the Forest Department, and the District Local Board (*Pravasi Grih*), and two of the Public Works Department, 3 grain-godowns and quarters for the Government servants. The Housing Board has constructed about 200 houses. Though the village is equipped with a *Vari Grih* (waterworks) and a filter plant, it experiences scarcity of potable water from March to June. The village is electrified.

* P = Persons; M = Males; F = Females

A missionary church which was established in the early part of the century is managed by the Christian Mission. There is a wireless station for the Forest and the Police Departments. The State Transport Depot with a workshop, a multipurpose co-operative store and the office of the Forest Labour Co-operative Societies are also located here.

The Dang Darbar is held at Ahwa for three days. Its origin is traced to the British regime when a Darbar of the Dangi Rajas and Naiks was held and forest subsidies were awarded to them at the hands of the Political Agent. This Darbar used to be held on the eve of the Holi, the major festival of the Adivasis. This tradition is still maintained. Besides Rajas and Naiks, Patels, Karbharis and Jagalias are also now invited to the Darbar. An agricultural exhibition, a cattle-show and a fair held here during these days continue for about a week upto Holi (Phalgun Sud 15). About half the Dangi population comes to Ahwa to witness the Darbar proceedings and enjoy the fair and the exhibition.

Ahwa is historically important. It was selected as the headquarters of the Dangs by Capt. Outram before 1857. In 1830, the Dangi Chiefs and Naiks indulged in depredations and pillage in the areas roundabout the Dangs. In order to subjugate them Outram raised a Bhil Corps in Khandesh. With the Bhil Corps consisting of 10,000 persons, he marched upto Gadhvi where half of the army died because of bad climate and pestilence. This army encamped near the mango-tree at a distance of 2 kms., from Ahwa where the Raja of Gadhvi opposed with all the Bhils at his command. The Gadhvi Raja, Silpatsing was arrested and his men dispersed. Because of the encampment of Outram's army near the mango-tree, this place is still known as *Lashkari Amba.*

There are a few very old buildings in Ahwa. Six of them on the west of the present Civil Hospital, housing the Diwan Kacheri, Jail, Treasury, Medical Dispensary and three staff headquarters were called Diwan Kacheri Buildings. The Dang Diwan's bungalow where the Diwan used to stay is to the left of the Forest Range quarters. The Police line opposite the Range quarters is also very old. The present P. W. D. office premises were formerly used as a distillery by one Parsi lady Dhanbai. Near the warehouse is the oldest well called the warehouse well or *Ambano Kuvo,* whose water was used for diluting liquor. The Forest Rest-house made of wood on the hill is also very old. Upto 1942, the entire administration of the Dangs was placed in charge of the Divisional Forest Officer, who also exercised the powers of the Assistant Political Agent. After 1942, a new post of a Civil Administrator was created and all the powers except those relating to the forests were vested in him. The Civil Administrator occupied the Sub-Divisional Officer's bungalow, which is now, after renovation, occupied by the District Collector. All these buildings might be 70 to 80 years old and are connected with the British administration in one form or the other.

The Dangs Club, which was founded by Mr. Marjoribanks, the Divisional Forest Officer, in the year 1912, is a unique social institution of Ahwa. In fact, it was the only organised social institution in the district practically upto the advent of Independence. Since it played a unique part in the otherwise dull life of Ahwa, it merits a special mention. It had a library called Hailey Library started in 1920 and a *pucca* tennis court called Inder Tennis Court built in 1925. A *pucca* building of the Club was constructed by collecting subscriptions and donations. It was run by Government till 1948. Thereafter, it had to depend solely on subscriptions and donations collected by the members of the Club. Its popularity depended upon the interest taken by the top Government officers stationed at Ahwa. Normally, the top Government officials like the Dangs Diwan, the Divisional Forest Officer, or the District Collector was nominated as the President of the Club. Besides providing outdoor and indoor games, it served as an informal meeting ground of the Government officers in a spirit of comraderie in their spare time. Discussions and discourses were also held there. In the early 20's, there was neither a washerman nor a barber at Ahwa. No temple was there for worship. To meet the situation the Club induced a washerman and a barber from outside to settle in Ahwa. They were paid from the monthly contributions from members. The Club members collected donations and built a Mahadev temple in 1924 which is still the only temple at Ahwa. Thus, the Club was instrumental in providing community services, besides indoor and outdoor games and library facilities.

Bardipada—(P. 262—M. 131 ; F. 131)

Bardipada, which lies on the north latitude 20°-58′ and the east longitude 73°-38′ is situated on the Ahwa-Bardipada Road, 27 kms. away from Songadh (Surat district) and 35 kms. from Ahwa. The Gira river flows by the village. At a distance of 8 kms. on the Kalibel-Bardipada Road, there is a fort called the Rupagadh at a height of about 600 feet. Bardipada is the headquarters of the Range Forest Officer and has a Forest rest-house. A weekly bazar is held in this village every Wednesday. The village has a mobile dispensary, a primary school and a Sanskar Kendra.

The population consists mainly of Gamits mixed with Bhils, Kumbis and Warlis. Their main occupation is agriculture and forest labour.

Chinchli—(P. 380—M. 208 ; F. 172)

Chinchli, which lies on the north latitude 20°-45′ and the east longitude 73°-55′ is situated on the bank of the Purna river, on the eastern border of the district adjoining the Nasik district (Maharashtra State) about 29 kms. from Ahwa with which it is connected by road. Situated at the foot of the Fort Salher, it has a cool and refreshing climate. Chinchli has a Police outpost, a Forest rest-house, a *chavdi* and an Ashramshala. Besides, it has a

veterinary first-aid dispensary and residential quarters for the Government servants. On the bank of the river, there is an old Shiv temple which enshrines the idols of Shiv, Mata and Hanuman. A weekly bazar is held here every Tuesday.

The Bhils and Kunbis who are the main inhabitants of the village eke out their maintenance by agriculture and forest labour.

Don—(P. 562—M. 288 ; F. 274)

Don, on the north latitude 20°-43′ and the east longitude 73°-53′ is situated 29 kms. south-east from Ahwa on the border of the Nasik district and adjoining the village Manur of the Kalwan taluka (Nasik district). The village is so called because its shape is like a cup (પડિયો) being surrounded by the hills. It is situated at a height of about 3,500 feet above the sea level, the highest among the villages of the district. To its south-west where the Purna river flows, there is a valley. Don has a very pleasant climate. Water is available in plenty. However, lack of communication facilities is the bottle-neck in the development of this place as a hill station and health resort. At present, the village is not accessible even by motor-car except *via* Baglan taluka of the Nasik district. A proposal for construction of a road connecting the village with the Ahwa-Chinchli Road is under consideration of the District Local Board.

The village is divided into 7 *padas* (*falias*) and is populated by Kunbis and Bhils. The main occupation is agriculture and cattle-breeding. There are seven wells at the village which irrigate crops of sugar-cane, wheat and gram.

Gadhvi—(P. 762—M. 385 ; F. 377)

Gadhvi on the north latitude 20°-50′ and the east longitude 73°-41′ is situated on the Ahwa-Mahal Road about 14 kms. from Ahwa. It is the seat of the Raja of Gadhvi who is considered as the senior-most in the hierarchy of Rajas and Naiks of the Dangs.

The Purna Wild Life Sanctuary starts from this place in the thick forest of the Kot area. The main population is of Bhils mixed with Kukanas who live upon agriculture and forest labour. A weekly bazar is held here every Sunday.

Galkund—(P. 356—M. 202 ; F. 154)

Galkund, on the north latitude 20°-38′ and the east longitude 73°-48′ is situated on the Ahwa-Nasik Road about 26 kms. away from Ahwa and on way to Saputara. Originally, it was shown in the survey sheets as Gadkund.

a group of forts. The village situated in a shallow basin is surrounded by forts like Hatgadh and Mohangadh. A stream known as Bhegunalla passes by this village.

The village has a Forest rest-house, a *dharmashala* of the District Local Board and a co-operative godown.

It is populated by Kunbis and Bhils, who live upon agriculture and forest labour.

A weekly bazar is held here every Tuesday.

Kalibel—(P. 524—M. 294 ; F. 230)

Kalibel, on the north latitude 20°-55′ and the east longitude 73°-35′ is situated about 29 kms. north-west from Ahwa on the right bank of the river Purna. It is connected with Ahwa-Vyara Road *via* Pimpri. The village has one Ashramshala, a primary health centre, a family planning centre, a veterinary first-aid dispensary and a Forest rest-house.

The village is populated by Bhils, Kunbis and Warlis who live upon agriculture and forest labour.

A weekly bazar is held every Tuesday. An annual fair is also held near Ram* Mandir on Paush Sud 15.

Khatal—(P. 361—M. 179 ; F. 182)

Khatal, lying on the north latitude 22°-53′ and the east longitude 73°-37′ is situated 35 kms. north-west of Ahwa on the Ahwa-Vyara Road on the bank of the Purna river.

The population is of Kunbis and Bhils who live upon agriculture and forest labour. A co-operative society and a primary school have been established.

Mahal—(P. 187—M. 102 ; F. 85)

Mahal, on the north latitude 20°-55′ and the east longitude 73°-40′ is situated in the midst of thick forest on the bank of the river Purna, about 27 kms. from Ahwa. The teak-wood of this area ranks very high amongst the teak-wood of India. The village has an Ashramshala, a forest depot, a Forest rest-house, a co-operative godown and the Public Works Department store-room on the bank of the Purna. During the British regime, there was

*In the Dangs district, the Shiv temples are few and far between. But the places with the idols or images of Hanuman with those of Vagh Dev carved in wood are many.

a Police Thana at this village. It is situated within the Purna sanctuary, in the hilly area.

The population is of Bhils, Kunbis and Warlis who eke out their maintenance by agriculture and forest labour.

A weekly bazar is held every Monday.

Pimpri—(P. 352—M. 207 ; F. 145)

Pimpri, on the north latitude 21°-39′ and the east longitude 71°-27′ is situated on the Ahwa-Bilimora Road, on the bank of the river Khapri, at a distance of about 19 kms. from Ahwa and 14 kms. from Waghai. The village which is the seat of the Naik of Pimpri has a Forest rest-house, a P. W. D. store and a Government Ashramshala.

The population is of Bhils, Kunbis and Warlis who live upon agriculture, fishing and forest labour.

A weekly bazar is held at this place every Thursday.

Pipaldahad—(P. 293—M. 154 ; F. 139)

Pipaldahad, which lies on the north latitude 20°-54′ and the east longitude 73°-52′ is situated 39 kms., north-east from Ahwa and connected with it by the Ahwa-Subir-Pipalner Road. A Sanskar Kendra, a *chavdi*, a Forest rest-house, a hostel and a veterinary first-aid dispensary have been established at the village. There is an old temple with *Shiv ling* and goddess.

The population is of Kunbis, Mavchis and Bhils who live upon agriculture and forest labour.

A weekly bazar is held every Sunday.

Piplaidevi—(P. 406—M. 208 ; F. 198)

Piplaidevi, which lies on the north latitude 20°-49′ and the east longitude 73°-49′ is situated to the north-east of Ahwa at a distance of 35 kms., *via* Laochali on the Ahwa-Subir Road. There is a Range Forest Office and a rest-house of the Forest Department. The population is of Bhils and Kunbis living upon agriculture and forest labour.

Sakarpatal—(P. 337—M. 191 ; F. 146)

Sakarpatal, on the north latitude 20°-40′ and the east longitude 73°-36′ is 48 kms., south-west from Ahwa and 19 kms. from Waghai on the way to

Saputara on the Waghai-Nasik State Highway. Situated on the bank of the Ambika river, the village has a Forest rest-house, a primary health centre and a co-operative society.

The population is of Bhils and Kunbis who live upon agriculture and forest labour.

A weekly bazar is held at this place every Thursday.

Saputara (Girinagar)—(P. 289—M. 143; F. 146)

Saputara, on the north latitude 20°-35′ and the east longitude 73′-45° is situated on the second highest plateau of the Sahyadri range running through the Gujarat State. The plateau overlooks the green valley stretched over a length of about 24 kms., and is surrounded by its several hills which make fine observation points. Saputara is about 45 kms. from Ahwa, the headquarters of the district, 113 kms. from Bilimora and 80 kms. from Nasik. From Waghai on the railway terminus of Waghai-Bilimora narrow gauge line on the Western Railway, it is 52 kms by road. From Bombay, *via* Bulsar on the Western Railway, it is 449 kms. and *via* Nasik on the Central Railway, 274 kms. From these rail-heads, there is a fine asphalt road right upto the plateau.

After the transfer of the Mount Abu to Rajasthan in the States Reorganisation in 1956, the State Government thought of developing Saputara as the first full-fledged hill station. The plateau which is now being developed as a hill resort is 2,800 feet above the mean sea level. Its maximum temperature is 80° F. in summer and its average rainfall is 100″. The climate is thus cool and bracing. On account of its location on a high elevation, dense forest and easy communications, it satisfies all requirements of a hill-resort. The place is popularly known as Girinagar. In order to meet scarcity of water, a dam has been constructed on the plateau by the grouting system to provide water for tourists. Dormitories, health homes and a good canteen have been provided. The hill station attracts more than 25,000 tourists every year, and with provision for greater amenities and facilities, this figure might double up in the next five years or so. With the water supply now guaranteed, and tapped water supplied from October 1970, it is hoped that the hill-resort in the Dangs might support at any given time upto 5,000 tourists and a town population of 5,000. With a Rs. 5 crore Master Plan under way, it is hoped that this could be a major summer resort not only for the home tourists but for visitors from other States also.

At Saputara, 26 holiday homes are programmed along with dormitories and other residential facilities for visitors with modest means. For the well-to-do, two 'A' class holiday-homes with 3 suites and a dining-hall have been constructed. One Information Centre Building making

provision for all Government offices and 15 independent suites is under construction. A *Pravasi Grih* having 20 independent suites with a dining-hall and a kitchen is also under construction. Further, two 'D' type holiday-homes and four 'C' type holiday-homes are nearing completion. There is a very good canteen-*cum*-provision store on the hill. Additional attractions for the future tourists will be the Purna wild game sanctuary near Mahal, the botanical garden at Waghai and the proposed anthropological museum at Girinagar. The future plan for developing the hill station includes boating and fishing facilities in the Saputara lake, auctioning of 300 plots for private residence and provision for a shopping centre, hotels, a stadium, an auditorium and a recreation hall. The lay-out of the hill station township provides for both private and public sector structures. To enhance the beauty of the sunset point, it is intended to plant *saag*, *gulmohar*, *cassia* and eucalyptus trees there.

There is an information office with a reading room attached to it in charge of the Assistant Director of Information, Saputara.

Singana—(P. 306—M. 161 ; F. 145)

Singana, on the north latitude 20°-59′ and the east longitude 73°-47′ is situated on the left bank of the river Gira on the Ahwa-Nawapur Road, 30 kms. from Ahwa. It has a Sanskar Kendra, an Ashramshala, and forest and police checkposts.

The population is of Mavchis, Bhils and Kunbis who live upon agriculture and forest labour.

A weekly bazar is held here every Monday.

Subir—(P. 859—M. 435 ; F 424)

Subir, on the north latitude 22°-56′ and the east longitude 73°-46′ is situated on the Ahwa-Nawapur Road about 27 kms. from Ahwa. It has a Forest rest-house, a range forest office, a forest wireless station, a P. W. D. store, a mobile dispensary centre, a police out-post and a library run by the Yuvak Mandal. Its population consists mainly of Mavchis, Warlis and Konkanis who live upon forest labour.

Waghai—(P. 1,953—M. 1,162 ; F. 791)

Waghai is so called because of abundance of tigers in former days. It lies on the north latitude 20°-46′ and the east longitude 73°-30′ and serves as a gateway to the Dangs district. Situated on the bank of the Ambika river, it is a terminus on the Bilimora-Waghai narrow gauge section of the Western Railway. It is on the Bilimora-Ahwa State Highway, 46 kms. from

Bilimora and 32 kms. from Ahwa by bus. Next in importance to Ahwa, it is the main business centre of the district where many of the forest contractors stay. It is the headquarters of the range forest office and has two forest check-posts, a P. W. D. store room and the Forest rest-house and *Pravasi Grih* of the District Local Board. There is a saw-mill with a preservation and seasoning plant run by the Forest Department. The teak wood collected from the forest is lodged at forest depots, situated near the railway station, from where it is transported to other centres by rail and trucks. About ¾ of the Dangs timber is bought to Waghai depot. Waghai has an agricultural research centre, an agriculture school, a seed multiplication centre, grain godowns, an electric power station, waterworks, a dispensary, a maternity and child health centre, a Sanskar Kendra, a primary school, a Government hostel for boys and a veterinary first-aid dispensary.

Waghai is populated by timber merchants and truck owners, who have come from outside. The local population consists of Kunbis, Bhils, Warlis and Kotwalias. Kotwalias maintain themselves by making bamboo baskets and others live upon agriculture and labour.

The botanical garden at Rambhas is at a distance of 3 kms. from here on the Waghai-Saputara Road. A weekly market is held every Wednesday.

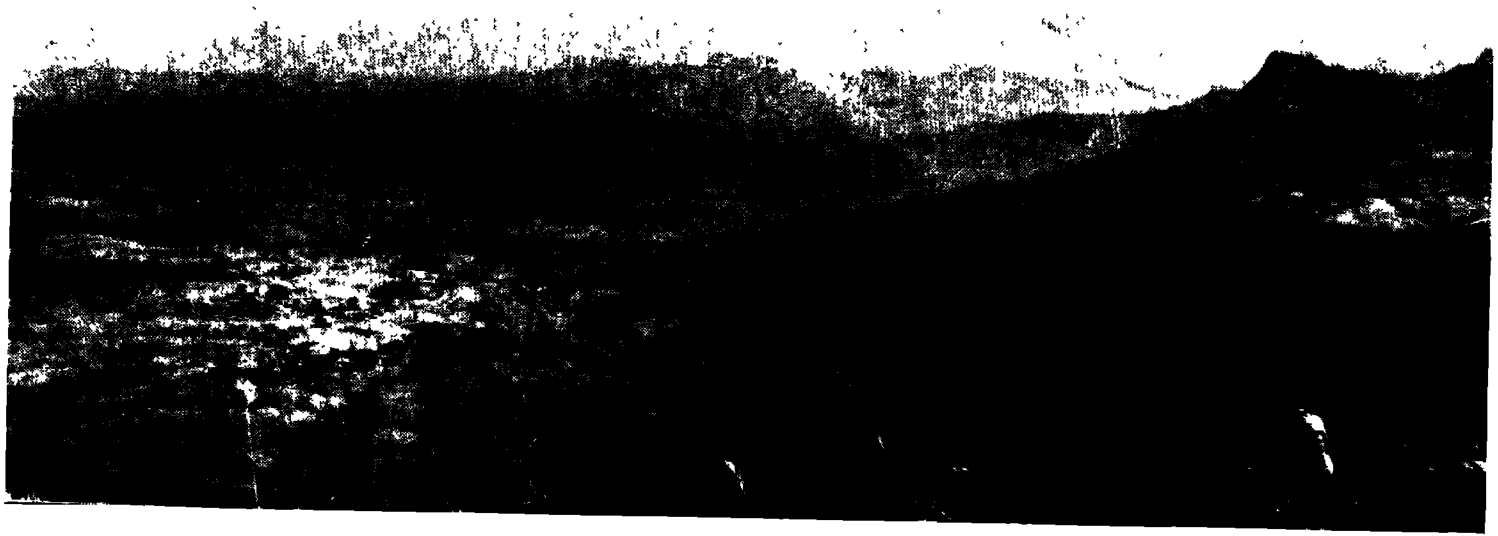
An *Urs* is held at the *dargah* of Badsha Bawa Pir and Saiyad Mahammad Shakir (Zariwala Pir) in the month of Zilhijja. Besides, there are temples of the Amba Mata and Hanumanji.

LIST OF PLATES

PLATES



1. Shri Hitendrabhai Desai, Chief Minister, with the Dangis.



2. Panoramic view of the Dangs (Dang *Darshan*)



3. Road through the Dangs forests



4. Image of God Hanuman carved in a tree near Borkhet



5. Bridge on the river Khapri on the main road from Bilimora to Ahwa.



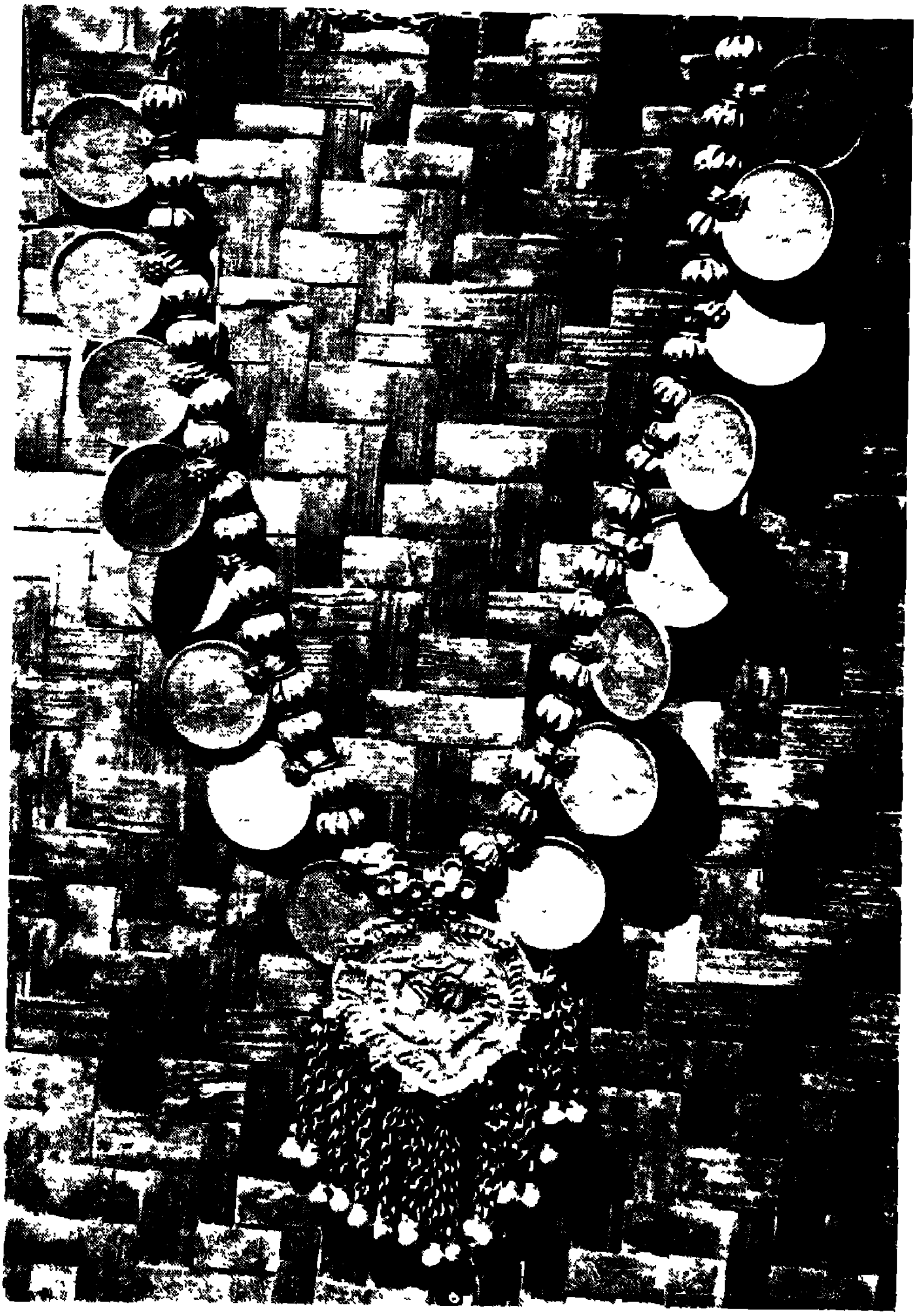
6 A Dangi woman with a child



7. A Dangi woman



8. A Dangi woman with ornaments



9. A Dangi necklace



10. Ornaments used by Dangis



11. Paddy pounding by Dangi women



12. Dangi musical instruments (*Sur* and *Kahalya*)



13. *Thakarva*, a typical dance of the Dangis



14. *Malino Chalo*, a special Dangi dance



15. *Bhajanio Chalo*, a dance performed while singing devotional songs



16. *Zavda Chalo*, a mixed dance performed with vigorous foot-steps in circular, serpent-like and lotus-flower formations.



17. *Zavda Chalo*, a mixed dance performed with vigorous foot-steps in circular, serpent-like and lotus-flower formations.



18. *Zavda Chalo*, a mixed dance performed with vigorous foot-steps in circular, serpent-like and lotus-flower formations.



19. *Bahino Chalo*, a type of mixed dance performed moving forward, backward, sitting and kneeling.



20. A Dangi woman fetching water.



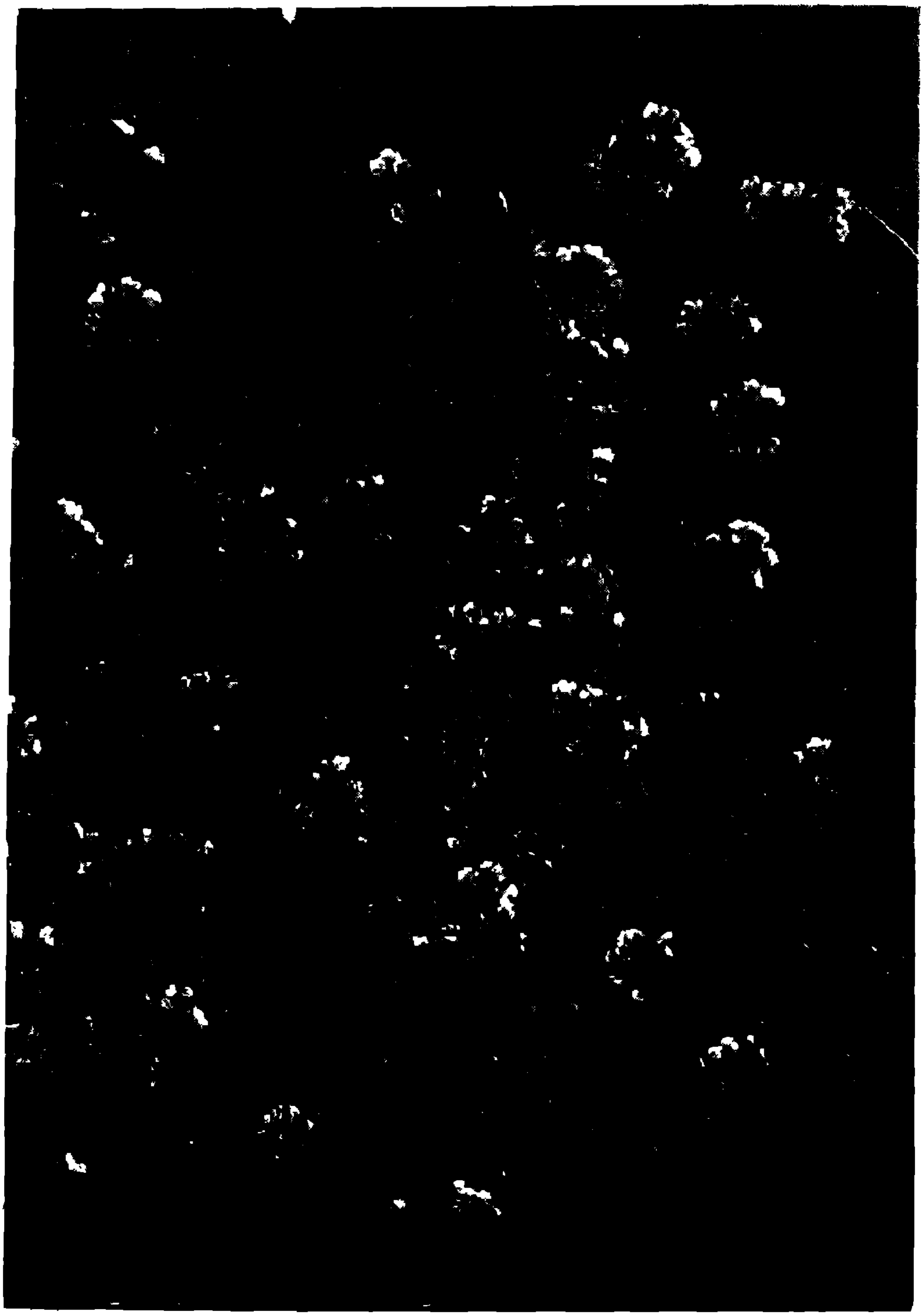
21. Holiday Homes at Saputara



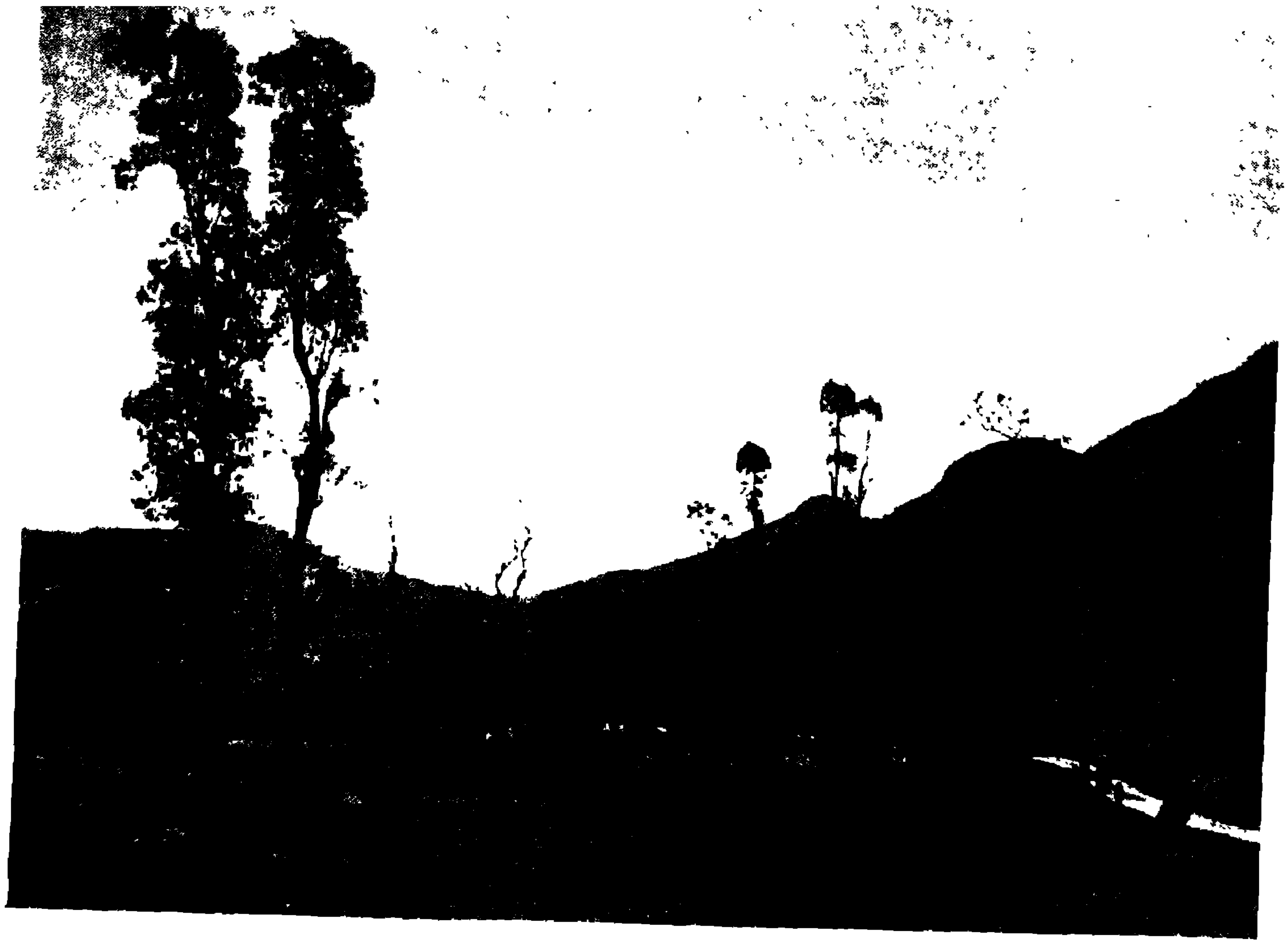
22. Panoramic view of the Saputara Hill station from the Sun-set point. Reservoir and Holiday Homes amidst greenery and Hills in the background



23 Dangi girls



24. Varas flowers at Saputara



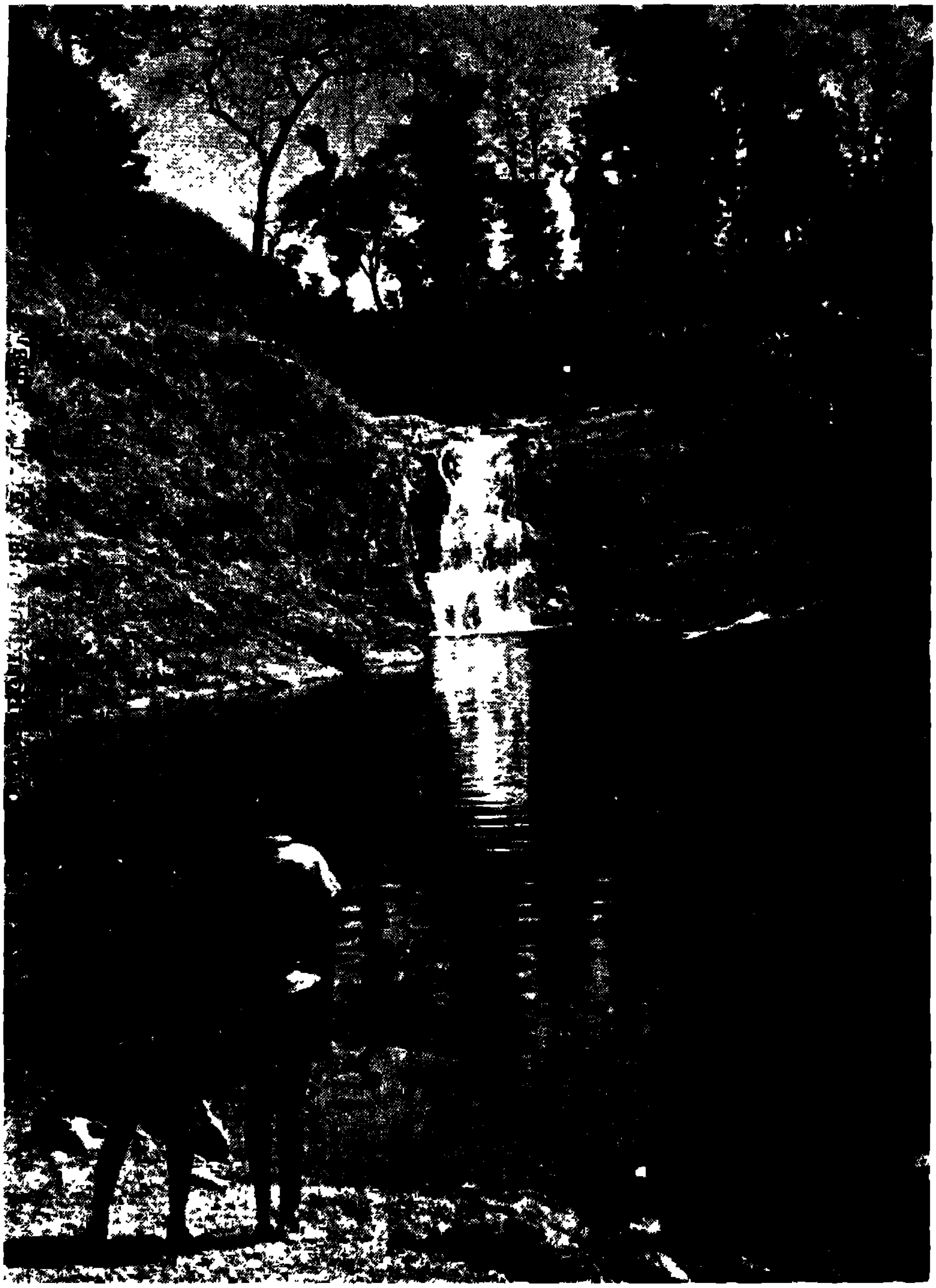
25. Malegaon on way to Saputara from Ahwa with the background of Saputara hills



26. An Adivasi girl at utensils shop at annual fair at Ahwa



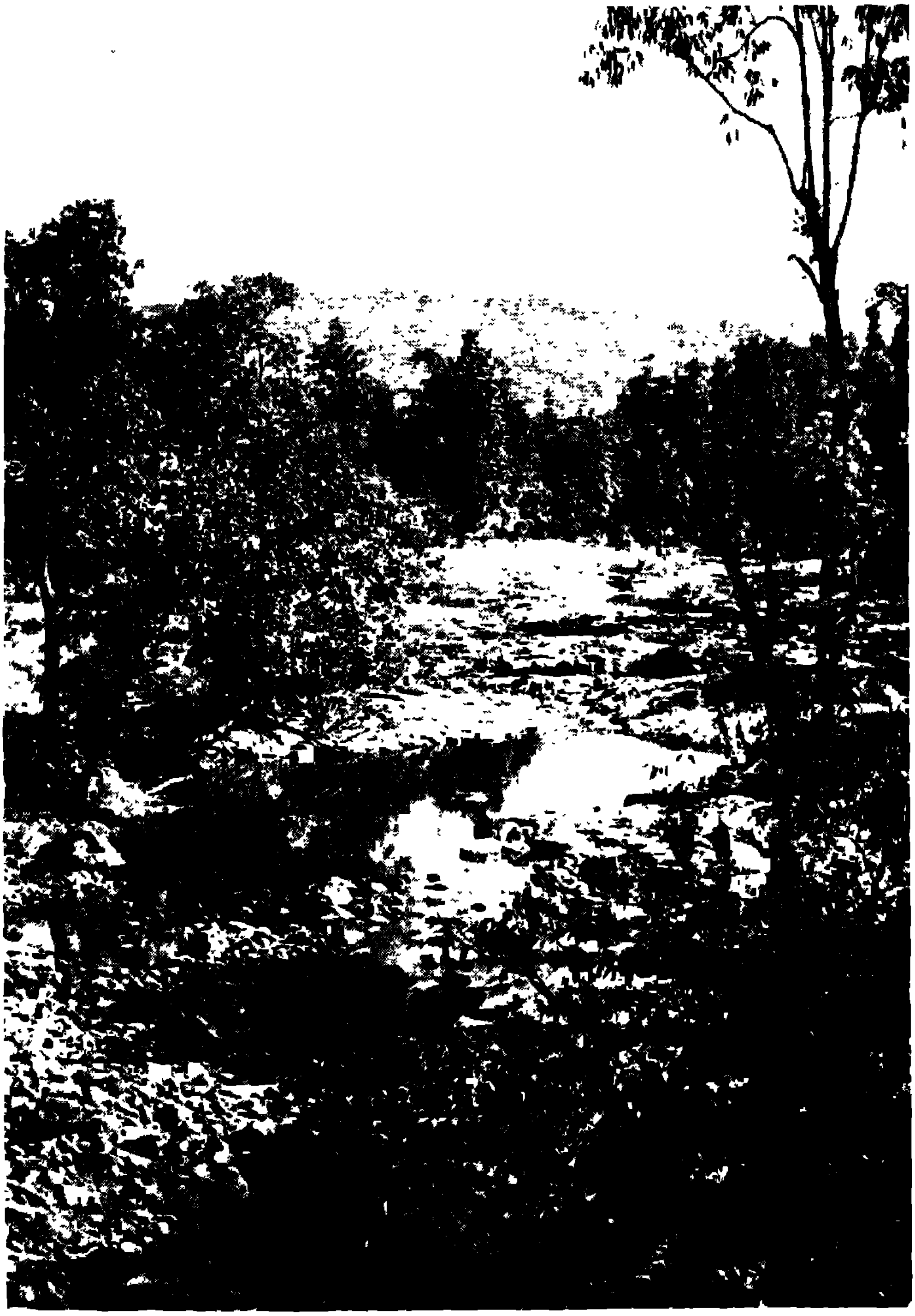
27. Houses for Dangis constructed by Housing Board at Shamgahan on way to Saputara from Waghai



28. Water-fall near Waghai



29. Palia Dev, Hero-stones near Lahancharya village



30. A natural scene on the Waghai-Saputara Road



31. A Dangi couple sitting inside the hut at Galkund village



32. Adivasi families at Galkund village

GLOSSARY

A

Abkari	Excise duty
Adivasi	An aboriginai, a tribal, an original settler in forests
Agarbatti	An incensed stick used during performance of religious rites
Akhatrij	Name of a Hindu festival falling on the third day of the bright half of the month of *Vaishakha*
Anu	Usually the first occasion after marriage when a married girl is seen off to her husband's home
Anvar	Generally the person attending the bridegroom, usually the younger brother of the groom
Apabhransha	Corrupt form of a language
Ashram	Hermitage
Ashramshala	Residential school for children of the Adivasi and other backward castes
Atta	Flour
Autbandhi	A land tenure in which land-tax is levied on the basis of ploughs and bullocks used and not on the extent of area cultivated

B

Bahino Chalo	A kind of group dance of males and females in Dangs
Bajri	Pearl Indian millet ; *Tennisetum typhoideum*
Bandhara	A dam across a reservoir
Bandi	Waist coat
Barsing	A head-dress with horn worn by the groom at the time of marriage
Belu	A wooden support
Bhagar	An inferior kind of white foodgrain
Bhagat	Devotee, who provides relief in a rudimentary style to the superstitious tribals
Bhajia	Leafy vegetables or vegetables

B—*contd.*

Bhat	Rice or paddy
Bhuj-kand	A kind of root eaten by the Adivasis after boiling it in hot water
Bhuva	A worshipper in the temple of a Goddess who becomes possessed by spirit ; one who treats minor ailments among the Adivasis
Bidi	Indigenous cigarette

C

Chalo	A dance
Champa	Weight measure
Chana	Gram, *Cicer arietinum*
Chavdi	A house where the village executive holds his office in the village
Chhatralaya	Students' hostel
Chiku	Name of a fruit, *Achras Sapota*

D

Daliya	Baked gram
Darbar	An assembly of Dangi Chiefs, Naiks and people held at Ahwa where they are given political pensions, clothes, prizes, etc.
Dargah	Tomb
Deshi	Local, native
Dhani	Parched grain
Dharmashala	Public rest-house
Dholak	Drum
Dhoti	A white waist garment worn by males in a flowing manner
Diwan Katcheri	The office of the Dangs Diwan
Doli	Fruit of a Mahuda tree
Dungar Dev	Hill-God

E

Eksali	Annual lease—a term used in connection with lease of land

F

Farsan	Spiced eatables usually made from gram flour and fried in oil

G

Gadh	Castle
Garba	A sportive dance of Gujarati females
Ghani	Indigenous oil-pressing contrivance
Ghee	Clarified butter
Giri-mathak	Hill station
Gorai	Gauri festival of the Dangi females
Gur	Jaggery
Guwar	A kind of bean

H

Halpatti	Plough-tax
Hal-vero	Plough-tax

I

Injaili	Non-teak trees

J

Jagaliya	Village watchman
Jamabandi	Settlement of land revenue
Jamadar	Constable
Jopio-chalo	A kind of Dangi group dance

K

Kachcha	Not durable
Kadu	Armlet, bracelet
Kahli	Name of a flute used by Dangis in dance
Kaju	Cashewnuts
Kakdi	Cucumber
Kap	Ear-ring
Karanj	A variety of oil-seed
Karbhari	Manager
Karela	Bitter vegetable
Katha	Catechu

K—*contd.*

Khadi	A coarse hand-woven cloth
Kharsani	Niger seeds, *Verbasina Sativa* (a kind of oil-seed)
Khatedar	A landholder, an occupant of land
Khetarwar	Field-wise
Kodali	Pick-axe
Kodra	Coarse variety of corn
Kot	Castle
Kutcha	Raw
Kutcha road	Unmetalled earthen road
Kyari land	Rice land

L

Ling	Emblem of the lord Shiva

M

Madana	Drums
Mahal	A sub-division of a district, which is smaller than a taluka
Malino Chalo	A variety of Dangi group dance
Mandir	Temple
Manjira	A pair of small cymbals
Mohania Chalo	A variety of Dangi group dance
Morno Chalo	Peacock-dance
Mukadam	Head jobber, supervisor

N

Nagli	One kind of cereal, a coarse grain, *Eleusine Corooana*
Naivedya	An offering of eatables to an idol
Nala	Causeway

P

Pachavi	Name of a festival generally called *Nagpanchmi*
Pan-bidi	Betel leaf and an indigenous cigarette made from *tendu* leaves and tobacco
Patedari	A holder of land on lease

P—*contd.*

Patrak	Register
Pattis	Taxes
Pavdo	A spade
Pradakshina	Circumambulance or moving round the image or the altar of *Yagna*
Pucca	Durable, solidly built, metalled
Puja	Worship

R

Rahats	Persian wheels
Rajas	Kings or rulers
Ras	A sportive dance performed jointly by males and females
Rashtrabhasha	National language

S

Saag	Teak wood
Sabha	Meeting
Samo or *Banti*	A coarse variety of corn used as food by the Adivasi and other backward classes
Sangh	Association
Sanskar Kendra	Cultural Centre
Saree	Hindu women's chief garment draped round the body
Seva	Religious or divine service
Shahenai	Musical instrument ; pipe
Shahukar	Money-lender
Shala	School
Sharnai	Musical instrument ; pipe
Shikar	Hunting
Shiva	Name of the Hindu God

T

Tadbuch	Water-melon
Tandalio	A leafy vegetable
Tarpa	Musical instrument prepared out of gourd and resembling a pipe

T—*contd.*

Tatties	A bamboo curtain
Thakor	The chief amongst certain tribes of Rajputs ; honorific title used after the name of a distinguished person
Thali	Metal plate with reed used as musical instrument
Tirthankar	One of the twenty-four incarnations of God worshipped by the Jains

U

Udid	Black gram, *Phaseolus radiatus*

V

Vari	A coarse cereal resembling rice
Virasan	One type of *yogic* exercise

W

Warai	One kind of cereal

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